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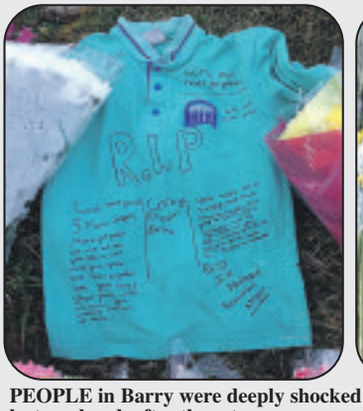
CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES Pages 19-23 More than meets the eye!
Bridgend Building Excellence Awards Pages 24-25
MAKING YOUR HOUSE A HOME Pages 24-25
SIX NATIONS RUGBY PREVIEW BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 48

TOWN IS 'NUMBED' BY TRAGEDY



PEOPLE in Barry were deeply shocked last weekend, after three teenagers were killed in a car accident near Brecon on Friday night (March 6).

In a separate incident, an 18-year-old Barry man was seriously injured in an attack at Porthcawl (*see story below*).

The car crash claimed the lives of Alesha O'Connor, Corey Price and Rhodri Miller.

All three were just 17. Alesha was a former pupil at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School.

Corey and Rhodri were pupils at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, where devastated pupils created a bank of bouquets (*above left*) together with the more personal tributes (*above*).

(FOR FULL DETAILS OF THIS TRAGIC EVENT, SEE PAGE 13).

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Barry man (18) in intensive care

POLICE have appealed for help after a young man from Barry was attacked in a Porthcawl caravan park.

Detectives are continuing their investigation into the serious assault on 18-year-old Connor Marshall (*pictured*) on Sunday.

He was attacked in the early hours of Sunday morning (March 8) at the Trecco Bay Caravan Park. Connor was found outside a caravan in the park at 7am and was taken to University Hospital Wales in Cardiff where he is in intensive care. On Monday, a police spokeswoman described his condition as "life threatening".

On Saturday night, he had left the caravan park at 10pm with two friends. They visited a number of pubs in Porthcawl, and made their way back to the caravan at 1am.

Connor was wearing a blue grey Adidas jacket, grey Adidas trainers, black skinny jeans, and was carrying a Nike shoulder bag.

Supt Paul Hurley said thatpolice were appealing for anyone who had been in the area, and might have information, to contact them.

He added that, in his opinion, the injuries to Connor were so serious that someone may have shared information with family, a friend, or a neighbour.

South Wales Police are appealing for anyone who may have seen or heard anything suspicious around the Cedars, Firs or Beeches areas in Trecco Bay between midnight and 8am on Sunday, March 8, to get in touch on 101 quoting reference number 1500080214 or Crimestoppers (free) on 0800 555 111.

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'So sad that your beautiful language causes such vitriol'

AN ENGLISH MAN'S VIEW FROM ACROSS THE BORDER

AS an English man, living in Kent, who has learnt Welsh as a second language, I was astounded to find that I'm a Welsh Nationalist who votes Plaid Cymru – according to a letter written by Peter Reed of Barry last week in your online edition.

Well, I'm not and my many dear Welsh-speaking friends throughout Wales aren't either.

They are people of many varying political opinions.

It saddens me that your beautiful language and its culture can cause so much vitriol in your Principality.

Most visitors to Wales see the language as a positive plus and would not be disturbed by the languages profile being highly visible throughout Wales.

Personally, I would love everyone to be bilingual in your beautiful land: but that's up to you to decide.

Cymru Am Byth!

Kim Erswell, Gillingham.

'Bypass better than a school'

I WISH I could share the moral certainty of some of the previous posters to this newspaper about the Welsh language.

I've noticed a tendency by some to believe so fervently in the language that any opposition to it from any quarter is deemed as being anti-Welsh.

That's a terrible mistake. To shout people down because they have a different view about the relative importance of the Welsh language in Welsh society is wrong.

The Welsh language is not a state religion. Some of us don't necessarily believe in it. Being Welsh is not the same as speaking Welsh.

I live in a world where most people speak English and will continue to do so because they choose to.

The WAG can spend as much money as they want supporting the Welsh language, but that fact is not going to change.

There is a cost that we all pay in supporting the Welsh language. That can be an opportunity cost, such as one to a child who is forced to expend a valuable GCSE learning a subject he/she has no talent or interest in. Or there is a financial cost.

There is a whole Welsh language industry out there being supported by public funds, from TV stations to legions of public sector jobs.

In this time of austerity, it surely can't be wrong to question how valuable public resources are spent?

What if some of that money was instead directed towards projects which both language communities could use, like schools or transport or hospitals?

Personally I'd prefer a Dinas Powys bypass to another Welsh school in Barry, but apparently making that choice would make me anti-Welsh.

David Bevan, Barry.

Taking flight

IT'S all very well Flybe announcing new routes this year from Cardiff Airport and being supported by the Welsh Government, but City Jet came last year and pulled out of the Jersey flights this summer; oh, and the £450,000 a year empty bus (T9) is still running.

D Coles, Barry.

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Newcomers from London find Cowbridge charming

...'but more houses in the town may spoil this... they should be built in Barry'

HAVING read many letters regarding housing development at Cowbridge, in particular Darren Farm, you may be interested in our thoughts as relatively new residents.

My wife and I retired to Cowbridge three years ago; we are both in our late 40s, having worked in London. We have a lovely home here and are also trying to be involved with the community, having purchased and refurbished two houses for letting.

We find the town charming; we particularly like the high street on Sundays just to meander and occasionally window shop when the retail premises are closed.

To stroll the lanes in the Vale of Glamorgan, especially during the winter, when you can see through the hedgerows, is a joy. We often just lean on a gate and gaze at the beauty of the scenery – actually, we are keen to take an art course and join an art society.

We feel more houses may spoil this and agree with Councillors Cox and Hunter Jarvie that the new housing should be built at Barry.

However, we are a little uncertain about proposed development at Llandow, having experience of a similar London satellite enlargement that gave isolation, lack of vitality and consequently reduced retention of property price.

To Mr Homfray, we also ask – please don't build!

David and Lisa Giles Betts, Cowbridge.

DREAM TIME?

IN reply to Christopher Williams (The GEM, March 5), Germany relies on wind energy for 20 percent of its electricity.

Each year, Germany imports 20 percent of its electricity from French nuclear power stations and is building 30 new coal fired power stations. Wind energy is for dreamers (and public employees!)

Ken Bowen, Newport.

Simple answer for Post Office

ALTHOUGH I have commented before on the ludicrous situation of a town the size of Cowbridge not having a post office for almost a year, I feel compelled to comment again, this time in response to the article in The GEM on March 5, about Cowbridge businessman Sam Smith being reminded (warned?) by Royal Mail that he must ensure his franked mail is posted at his local Post Office.

Is the person concerned even aware that Cowbridge no longer has a post office and that there is just ONE visible pillar box in the whole town?

The problem faced by the numerous businesses in Cardiff could be solved quite easily.

When I worked for an international airline in Frankfurt, Germany in the '80s and '90s, franked company mail could be put in large red envelopes – supplied free of charge by the German post office authority – and then dropped in any Deutsche Post letterbox.

That way, it was already separated from regular stamped mail.

Maybe someone ought to suggest that to Royal Mail, so that they find a way to make life easier for residents of Cowbridge, rather than sending out inexpedient top-down orders.

Cristel E John, Corntown.

POLICE AND THE MINERS

AS a senior police officer in the South Wales Police force during the miners' strike, I was appalled at the disgraceful statement made by the leader of Plaid Cymru, Leanne Wood, in the Sunday Times of March 1 that, "I always thought the police were there to protect the public, but the miners' strike changed that."

I should like to know on what evidence her thoughts are based, as during the strike, I took a contingent of officers to the coal processing plant at Abercwmboi, where we upheld the law allowing miners to strike and protest, but also provided protection to those who invoked their human right to work, as some miners did.

Police officers, some of whom were injured, were there to protect the individuals' rights and freedoms no matter what their view, a fundamental democratic principle.

I, for one, will be interested to hear how, according to Ms Wood, the role of the police in protecting the public has, therefore, been changed.

Coun KJ Watts, Newton (Police Superintendent Rtd, Welsh Conservative).

'Give up smoking with our help'

FOLLOWING No Smoking Day March 11, Tenovus Cancer Care would like to encourage any of your readers who would like advice or support on how to stop smoking, to '*Quit with Us*'.

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You can also call our free Support Line on 0808 808 1010, open 365 days a year.

We know it's really difficult, but if you'd like to quit we're all behind you.

Claudia McVie,
Chief Executive, Tenovus Cancer Care,

'Don't blame the townsfolk'

AS a regular reader and contributor to your newspaper and of 'Readers' Letters', I find on page 20 of The GEM on Thursday, March 5, two very controversial letters, which serve to further divide rural and urban communities.

The first was by Peter Reed of Barry ('*Welsh speakers almost certainly Nationalists*'). While making some very good points, which I agree with him on, it is wrong to say Welsh speakers are almost certainly nationalists and vote for Plaid Cymru.

In my family. I have Welsh speakers and I have friends and colleagues who are Welsh speakers, who I certainly know do not vote for Plaid Cymru.

On the other hand, also on page 20, I find a letter from Hywel Moelwyn Davies more controversial and confusing. To say that "*Barry folk have made a mess of their town, so why visit their incompetence on us*," is an appalling statement and is more deserving of The GEM's distancing footnote to Mr Reed's letter.

It's incredulous to me that Mr Davies does not seem to realise that during most of the four decades he says it has taken to establish Cowbridge, it is the former Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council (which is now the Vale County Borough Council) that had responsibility for investment and the development of both Cowbridge and Barry.

If anything, it is the officers of the authority and the successive administrations of councillors that have caused the demise of Barry, and not the townsfolk.

Mr K Lewis, Barry.

'Plan IS working'

MR G SMITH of Llantwit Major seems to be a permanent feature in The GEM letters page with his consistently negative sniping at our local MP.

He tries to paint a picture of doom and gloom in the Vale, laying the blame squarely on Conservatives in Westminster.

Here are some facts for Mr Smith: unemployment in the Vale is down from 5.8 per cent at the last election to 2.9 per cent now and over 38,000 local people have had their income tax cut. Inflation is at a record low and wages are rising.

Wales' economy is growing faster than any other part of the UK and creating thousands of new jobs - no mean feat considering the UK is now the fastest growing major advanced economy in the world!

The Conservative 'long-term economic plan' that he sneers at is working, and every day I see people from all walks of life benefiting.

L J Ware (former chair Barry Conservatives),

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 19)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
12 Thur	09.59	8.7	22.22	8.5
13 Fri	10.43	8.3	23.15	8.1
14 Sat	11.47	7.9		
15 Sun	00.33	7.8	13.13	7.7
16 Mon	01.59	7.8	14.49	7.9
17 Tues	03.23	8.4	15.59	8.6
18 Wed	04.27	9.2	16.57	9.4
19 Thur	05.22	9.9	17.49	10.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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Rhoose Point future takes unexpected turn as developers fall out over flooding

by PHILIP IRWIN

LOCAL residents objecting to a development is nothing out of the ordinary – but at Rhoose Point, it is neighbouring developers who are doing the objecting!

The matter will probably be discussed at the meeting of the Vale Council's planning committee tonight (Thursday) when plans by Taylor Wimpey to build 350 homes and a new school come up for consideration.

For this application Taylor Wimpey is the builder, and South Wales Land Development is the landowner.

However, two other landowners, who are intending to build homes on a neighbouring site, are not happy, and have issued a joint press release urging South Wales Land Development to work with them on important aspects of the infrastructure – in particular anti-flooding measures.

However, Taylor Wimpey have responded with a statement saying that they have made "significant efforts" to work with the other developers over a period of 15 years, with no success.

The Hardy and Davies families, whose adjoining 30 acres of land is the subject of a planning application by Persimmon and Bellway Homes, are appealing to South Wales Land Development to collaborate with them to invest in solutions to address flooding problems and congestion issues in Rhoose.

The joint statement said: "The scheme by Persimmon and Bellway Homes (land to the east) to develop 350 new houses includes the creation of a new road that will provide access from Pentir Y De and a new sewage drainage system to Porthkerry pumping station.

"The sewage drainage system will accommodate the new homes from the eastern site and the 350 homes and the school on the site to the West. There will also be a new surface drainage scheme which will divert water by gravity pipe direct to the sea and eliminate flooding from both development sites and the whole area".

The two families say that the Taylor Wimpey scheme has been the subject of objections by the public due to the concerns that it will cause further congestion and flooding, a claim strongly denied by Taylor Wimpey.

Network Rail has also objected to the South Wales Land Development plans due to concerns over the diversion of a public footpath.

According to the joint statement, South Wales Land Development has refused to speak to the Hardy and Davies families until a planning committee decision has been made on the Taylor Wimpey proposal.

It goes on to say that further objections have been raised as the proposed surface water scheme by Taylor Wimpey is untested and could result in flooding for Rhoose residents.

There will also only be a pedestrian link between the school being built on land to the west and the recreational facilities on land to the east. The Persimmon and Bellway Homes scheme provides "vehicular and pedestrian access" between the school and recreation facilities.

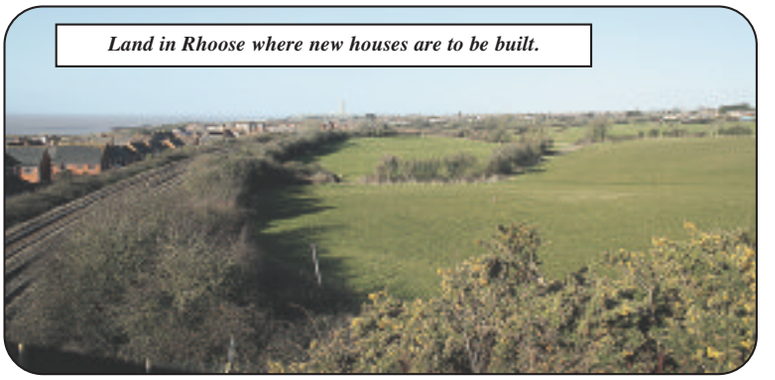
If the Taylor Wimpey scheme is agreed and access between the school and recreational facilities is required in the future, it will be at a cost for the tax payer.

Mr Philip Thomas spokesman for the landowners of the eastern development said: "We strongly urge Taylor Wimpey and South Wales Land Development to join our comprehensive scheme which would provide a more accessible property development.

"We believe it is important to work together so that the development is as appealing as possible to future house buyers and causes minimum disruption to Rhoose residents.

"The site proposed by Taylor Wimpey and South Wales Land Development will most likely cause further congestion in an already busy area. We want to ensure our development helps the Rhoose residents by cutting down congestion and eliminating flooding, but we can only do this if the council and residents help us encourage Taylor Wimpey and South Wales Land Development to join our scheme and the council reject their proposals".

A decision on the Taylor Wimpey scheme could be made at the planning meeting tonight (Thursday).



Land in Rhoose where new houses are to be built.

Coun Philip Clarke represents Rhoose on the Vale Council, and he has similar concerns.

He said: "I believe that Taylor Wimpey has submitted this application rather than negotiate and pay towards the infrastructure costs (roads and drainage) for the whole site.

"My main concern is that the proposed surface water scheme could cause future flooding. Furthermore, there is a 'ransom strip' between these sites which could be breached by compulsory purchase in the future to join up the roads within the site and would be at great cost to the taxpayer.

"I have noted correspondence that the Vale Council's planning department has stated that this proposal is not good planning.

"As an independent elected member I recommend that this application is refused on the basis that the comprehensive scheme for the whole site regarding drainage and highways is the only option for resolving this matter in the long term interests of the residents".

Vale Council planning officers are recommending that the scheme should go ahead, subject to a number of conditions.

A Taylor Wimpey spokesperson responded: "Our outline planning application for 350 houses, a new primary school, public open space and pedestrian/cycle links is supported by a surface water drainage strategy which allows the site to be developed independently of third-party land.

"This strategy will include measures to improve the drainage of the site in its current state by storing surface water from heavy rainfall events and restricting its flow to the existing local drainage network. Our drainage proposals for the site have been developed as the application has progressed and are fully supported by officers at the local planning authority.

"Contrary to claims, significant efforts to work with neighbouring developers on comprehensive development have been made over a period of 15 years, but these have proved unsuccessful. It is our view that the only way to deliver much-needed homes on this site – and in doing so allow the council to deliver a new local school and provide a number of other associated community benefits – is to pursue a scheme with standalone access and drainage solutions.

"After being subjected to rigorous analysis, our application is supported by both local policy and council planning officers and the scheme stands on its merits."

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Club members in front of the display

Barry Soroptimists put their work on display

TO mark International Women's Day tomorrow (Friday, March 6), Members of Soroptimist International Barry and District have produced a display at Barry Library with information and photos on the structure of Soroptimism, covering the International, federation, regional and club aspects of the organisation, and members' involvement at all levels.

There is information on the regional project (birthing in the Gambia and human trafficking) as well as the local, national, and international projects the club supports.

These range from sponsoring an orphan in India, knitting chicks for the Velindre Appeal and supporting the Eczema Society.

Members also organise fundraising activities which result in thousands of pounds being donated to various charities and undertakings. The display highlights the activities of the club and reflects Soroptimist aspiration.

The display will be in the library until the end of March and president Jeni hopes as many people as possible will view it and see the amazing work the organisation achieves.

To find out more about Soroptimism, visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district. **CJD**

Maracas, Milk Mates and Monkey Music!

A GREAT time was had by all last week at Barry Milk Mates, when Monkey Music gave all the mums and their children a free taster session!

We shook our maracas and danced to the beat of a drum, while children played hide and seek under the giant parachute with Monkey and happily popped away at the bubbles!

It was just another one of the fun activities organised by the peer supporters for breastfeeding mums and their babies in Barry and the surrounding areas.

We meet every Thursday at St David's Church Hall, in Winston Road, Barry, even in school holidays between 1pm – 3pm. New mums always welcome.

Why not pop along for a cuppa and a chat and some general breastfeeding support? Thank you, Monkey Music and we look forward to seeing new members soon.

LUCY BRAZIER-EVANS

ESPLANADE PROBLEMS RESOLVED

says councillor

COMPLAINTS that footpath and pollution issues on the Esplanade at Penarth need urgent attention by the authorities, were resolved by the Vale Council and developers, local councillor Anthony Ernest has reported.

He said: "After I contacted the Vale Council, steps were taken within a matter of days, after years of filibustering and procrastination, which had given considerable distress to both local residents and visitors.

"As most Penarthians will know, a long stretch of the pavement had been blocked off with blue hoardings and contractors' debris littering the area, while at the same time a noisy pollution-emitting generator ran 24 hours a day giving residents of nearby apartments no relief from these emissions and sleep loss noise.

"A number of residents let me know of their concerns and this was invaluable when I called on the Vale, as the public health regulator, to get this matter sorted out in a timely manner.

"The Vale will now also be able to implement the new parking slots that have been promised for many months, and hopefully this is the end of the matter," he added.

Coun Ernest also welcomed the repainting of the railings and lamposts along the Esplanade and up Beach Hill, which is now at the completion stage.

PLAID CYMRU SURGERY

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery, to discuss any council issues or concerns with Plaid Cymru councillors Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan Wiliam, Nic Hodges, and Shirley Hodges.

It will be held in the Community Room, at the County Library, King Square, Barry from 11am until 12 midday this Saturday, March 14. No appointments are necessary.

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From Sedbury Cliffs to Prestatyn – *Jo's epic walk will raise funds for animal welfare!*

by GEM REPORTER

Jo and her spaniel Misha, who will be taking her for a long walkies!

A woman from Rhoose is to walk the 177 miles from the Sedbury Cliffs, which marks the southern end of Offa's Dyke path, to Prestatyn, in aid of four animal rescue organisations.

Jo O'Sullivan aims to raise funds for RSPCA (Cardiff & District), Cats Protection League (Cardiff & the Vale), Dogs Trust and the UK-German Shepherd Rescue (Welsh branch).

Jo, who works for a financial company in Cardiff, told The GEM: "Every now and again something or someone will inspire you to undertake an activity, way beyond any rational comprehension and to do something you would never ordinarily dream of doing. This is exactly what happened to me towards the end of last year, when I was 'introduced' to a beautiful German shepherd dog called Gabriel."

The GEM featured Gabbi as one of the animals that benefited from our Christmas animal welfare appeal.

Jo explained: "Although I haven't met him in person, his plight made me want to do something extraordinary, not only by raising money, but also to highlight the needs of these abused and neglected animals in our communities."

At first, Jo considered a walk from Wales to England.

"My step daughter had just moved down to Totnes, and I thought perhaps I could walk from Cardiff to Totnes.

"However, the route was problematic and that idea was quickly shelved. I thought long and hard. In work one day, I spoke to my colleague, Sam, asking her what the name of the border was between Wales and England, to which she replied, 'Offa's Dyke' – and there the idea was born."

Jo will start her trek on Saturday, March 28.

"Luckily, Lisa, my step-daughter and her daughter Ella, agreed to join me and my three cocker spaniels. My poor husband is ferrying us between stops and putting up and taking down the tent. It's a real team adventure!

"The organisation of the walk is so much bigger than I anticipated – the training seems to be the easy bit and my dogs absolutely love the extra walking and hill climbing. Booking the accommodation – I deserve a medal just for that – is the tricky bit.

"I chose animal charities, not only because of the fact I love animals, but also these causes seem to be the ones that go to the bottom of the pile.

"My aim is to raise £10,000 to be divided between these four amazing charities.

"I have set up a just giving page – *www.justgiving.com/teams/madadventurers* for the RSPCA, CPL and Dogs Trust.

"You can donate to the UK German Shepherd Rescue via the following link, *www.uk-gsr.co.uk/offasdykewalk.htm*.

"I would be grateful for absolutely anything people are able to donate to help me reach my target."

Councillors questioned

DINAS POWYS residents raised a varied list of issues at the Plaid councillors' coffee morning in the Lee Hall.

Topics ranged from planning applications and road maintenance to traffic problems. Plaid county and community councillors discussed with residents their concerns over a cup of coffee (or tea).

Coun Chris Franks reported: "We are grateful that people took the trouble to attend the event. As usual, we had a good crowd thoughout the morning. There are major pressures on council budgets and we need to know what are people's priorities."

The next event is on Saturday, March 28 in the Murchfield Hall, Sunnycroft Lane.

For further information, contact Chris Franks (07725 497423); Keith Hatton (07749 825751) and Val Hartrey (02920 513274).

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Out of the wind and into the sun at Pont Rhyd-goch!

THE Brecon Mountain Centre was the meeting place recently for Penarth and District Ramblers when 14 walkers, including three visitors from Taff Ely, joined Robin and his spaniel Pepper for the trek up to the 629-metre trig point on Fan Frynach.

Long distance views were hazy as they trekked muddy pathways on Mynydd Illtud in dry weather beside the twin bogs of Traeth Mawr and Traeth Bach and past Forest Lodge cottages, before pausing for morning coffee in the valley whilst gazing at the mountain ponies grazing on the upper slopes of Fan Frynach.

A gradual pull up a grassy pathway led them onto the south-western end of the plateau on Fan Frynach,where it was a relief to turn their backs against a cold blustery wind that brought with it some low mist. Making their way past a stone cairn and then the trig point, the search was on to find a suitable hollow for lunch break out of the biting wind as fingers and bodies soon began to numb in the cold.

From the end of the ridge, with its hazy views through the Tarell valley to Brecon, the gradual descent by track and field back into the valley was accompanied by warmer temperatures as they re-crossed Mynydd Illtud back to their start.

Heavy morning traffic was a problem with many hold-ups when Barrie and his five companions set off mid-week from Cogan on an impromptu walk that required them to get to the Storey Arms in order to catch a bus to Brecon and fortunately they made it.

Disembarking, their route back was mainly along part of the long distance Taff Trail. Pounding the road out of Brecon to warm up and reaching Pont Rhyd-goch, they entered fields with fantastic views up to the central Beacon ranges towering above, as the sun came out, remaining with them for most of the day.

From Gron-felen a quiet lane below the Cwm Llwch valley led them to Old Glanrhyd, where they deviated into the Glyn Tarell valley following the riverbank of the pretty Afon Tarell, which is home to otters and dippers.

After pausing for lunch, they continued climbing out of the valley and back onto the Taff Trail, following the ancient 18th century drovers route all the way back to the Storey Arms, once an old coaching inn, but now an outdoor education centre, before making the journey home.

***On March 14**, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile hard walk at Pentyrch, Garth Hill and Gwaelod y Garth; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.*

***On March 15,** meet at 9am at Cogan for an eight-mile moderate walk at Pengenffordd; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.*

***On March 17**, a 15-mile hard walk from Lisvane station to Hengoed railway station via the eastern section of the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk; contact William on 01446 747239 for details.*

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Town councillors oppose wood-burning plant at Barry Docks

by GEM REPORTER

BARRY Town Planning Committee has unanimously opposed plans for a wood-burning power plant on Barry Docks.

The proposed site is to the east end of the docks, and on the site of a previous application.

Speaking for Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth and local residents from the Docks Incinerator Action Group, Max Wallis outlined environmental objections to the plans while Barry Town Council planning officer, Clive Farrant, explained the history of the site – where the previous application had been opposed by local councillors but overturned by a Government planning inspector after a Public Inquiry.

Sunrise Renewables won permission to build a plant in 2010, but would now like to build a bigger one.

Plaid Cymru councillor, Shirley Hodges, said: "The question is whether this is a new application. It is a larger plant and higher stack than the previous plans. It is a different process and technology to the one proposed before.

"To me, that means it is a new application and we should repeat all of our previous concerns, as well as those which are relevant to its extra size."

Fellow councillor Ian Johnson added: "Five or six years ago, this company proposed a number of schemes in different post-industrial towns such as Barrow, Hull, Scunthorpe and others, but it seems none of them have been built.

"Like us, Barrow have been looking to develop their Waterfront area, but their marina village idea – which was next to the power plant site – has fallen through. I wonder if there is a connection.

"The last thing that our Waterfront development wants, or that local residents want to see on their doorstep, is a huge industrial setting, when Barry is moving on from the past.

"I also question the green credentials of this process. There appear to be much more efficient ways of creating renewable energy than this technology."

Among local people concerned about a wood-burning plant at the docks is Pat Calunniato, who lives in the centre of Barry.

She commented: "What we don't know is what will be going into the incinerator and what will be coming out in the form of toxic ash. I'm worried because there are a number of primary schools in the vicinity and children are the future of the town."

She also pointed out that it would mean an increase in lorries making their way through the town at all times of the day and night.

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Charity 'smoothies' the path for healthy students!

The school was lucky enough to have the use of a fantastic smoothie bike, kindly lent to us from Porthcawl-based charity Sustainable Wales.

NOW in its seventh year, the annual Healthy Living Week at Barry Comprehensive School has become established as a focal point of the spring term calendar – with students and staff taking part in a wide range of activities promoting healthy eating, healthy bodies, healthy minds, healthy relationships and a healthy planet.

The school was lucky enough to have the use of a fantastic smoothie bike, kindly lent to us from Porthcawl-based charity Sustainable Wales.

Local supermarket Waitrose was extremely generous with fruit donations, which allowed the pupils to whizz up their own smoothies, while keeping fit at the same time!

Fresh fruit was also sold by members of the student parliament at break and lunch times and profits from fruit smoothie sales go to Sustainable Wales charity.

Year-7 took part in the Heartstart programme delivered by Mr Bill Jones, which taught them practical emergency life-saving skills.

Other activities included sports sessions including karate, break dancing, dodgeball, basketball and mini-tennis, all arranged by the school's 5×60 officer Stefan Williams. Year-9 took part in a confident speaking workshop called 'Talk the Talk' which was delivered by special guests.

Pupils were awarded certificates and all managed to successfully improve their public speaking confidence throughout the day.

Assemblies had a focus on healthy relationships, healthy communities and healthy bodies. Continuing these topics were interactive and exciting sessions provided by our partners, Vibe Experience, Vale Youth Service's C-Card Scheme and Show Racism the Red Card.

AC

First step towards new slipway at dock

A CROWD of potential users and committee members assembled at the end of the Mole No 1 Dock Barry – to witness the 'cutting of the first sod' for the slipway to be built to permit sailing, rowing and canoeing on dock waters.

Chairman Chris Basten welcomed the guests including Nigel Midgley and other members of Canoe Wales, who have decided to make Barry Community Water Activities Centre their sprint canoe base for south Wales.

The other organisations also present included Welsh Rowing, Special Wales Olympics, Wales and Rhoose Lifeguards president Chris Braggins, and the new Barry District Commissioner for Scouts, Chris Parsons.

He then invited the Mayor, Coun Jeff Evans, to supervise the cutting of the first sod. The Mayor was disappointed that Health and Safety regulations prevented him from actually driving the JCB! However, he said it was a great start for the regeneration of the derelict dock waters, which he thoroughly supported, and wished the trust every success in its endeavours.

The OWT vice chairman Commodore Martin Westwood RN (Rtd) thanked GRABit Plant Hire and Groundworks contractor, and said he was looking forward to the completion of the works in May, subject to tides.

The cutting of the sod at Mole No 1 dock drew quite a crowd!

Barry choir swells with pride at concert

New members in the choir.

BARRY Male Voice Choir's part in this year's three choir concert had a greater significance than ever... the choir, for the first time for many years, was able to stage 38 members and included for their first full concert 14 new choristers.

Chairman Gareth Roberts explained: "We are very proud of our new members. Their presence has energised the choir and contributed to a greater richness of tone. We can now look forward to the future with greater confidence and ambition."

In May, the choir will visit Rheinfelden, Germany, twinned with the Vale, where a full programme of visits, concerts and a civic reception have been arranged. 2016 promises to be an equally exciting year with a proposed visit to Scotland and a visit to the Royal Albert Hall, London to take part in the Festival of Male Voice Choirs.

The choir's next local concert will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street Barry on March 19, at 7.30pm when the new members (pictured above) will play their part in providing a feast of inspired harmony. Tickets £4 are available from choristers or at the door.

New members are always welcome. Further details of membership and activities can be found on www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk.

GJ

Marie Curie display

The Marie Curie window display.

PARK Independent Funeral Directors whose premises are opposite the Barry Library in Tynewydd Road, Barry, have assembled a window display in support of Marie Curie fundraising.

At this time of year, Marie Curie raises funds for the hospice in Penarth, as well as support for their ongoing commitment to the day to day care and needs of patients suffering the effects of cancer.

Inside their premises, they have daffodil pin badges available and invite the public to call in and donate, take a daffodil pin badge and show their support for this very worthy cause.

Senior funeral director Robert Johnson is a member of the Marie Curie fundraising committee. He said: "We welcome members of the public to call and show their support with a small financial donation. I cannot emphasise too much the good work that Marie Curie does."

Chance to view building plans

LOCAL residents are being invited to view plans for a new housing scheme proposed on the site of the former Adult Training Facility on Woodlands Road, Barry.

It was sold by the Vale in 2014 to a local developer and a planning application will be submitted in the next few months. If successful, Pegasus Developments will build the scheme on behalf of Newydd Housing Association.

A public exhibition is where residents can speak to representatives from Newydd and DPP, at Barry YMCA, Gladstone Road on Thursday, March 19 between 1pm and 8pm.

SOROPTIMISTS BOOK GIFTS

TO mark World Book Day on March 5, members of Soroptimist International Barry and District donated books to Golau Caerdig, Hafod Housing Association's recently opened extra care housing development in Barry.

The club's programme action officers, Pat Salt and Jackie Memory, presented the books to Miles Utting from Golau Caerdig.

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Plans to 'reshape' library services in the Vale get council green light

by GEM STAFF

VALE COUNCIL plans to trim more than £400,000 from the budget for libraries were approved on Monday (March 9) at a meeting of the cabinet.

Opening hours are to change and community groups are being invited to submit "expressions of interest" in running libraries in Dinas Powys, Rhoose, St Athan, Wenvoe and Sully.

A Vale Council statement said that this followed Vale residents' endorsement of the strategy to "reshape" library services.

From June 1, opening hours at Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth libraries will be reduced by a total of 41 hours each week by adjusting opening and closing times.

The libraries will continue to open for at least one evening a week as those who responded to the consultation requested.

Coun Stuart Egan, cabinet member for adult services, said: "The consultation made it very clear that people in the Vale are passionate about their library service".

Residents interested in developing a community led library will have until May 18 to come forward and begin working with the council to develop a viable business plan. The council then aims to have community libraries in Dinas Powys, Rhoose, St Athan, Wenvoe and Sully up and running by spring 2016.

Coun Egan said: "Over the past months we have spoken to a number of groups willing to help us maintain the current number of libraries in the county. We believe there are more people out there who would like to contribute and we are asking them to come forward. The unprecedented financial pressures that we are currently facing mean that we simply cannot continue to provide services in the same way. We do not want to see libraries in the Vale close but the status-quo is not an option".

However, there was opposition from a number of areas. Before the cabinet meeting UNISON, which represents library staff, handed in a petition opposed to the plans. In a press statement, UNISON gave the number of signatories as "thousands".

Gillian Southby, UNISON libraries representative in the Vale, said: "We've been overwhelmed by the number of people across the Vale who have signed the petition to save library services.

"Libraries are far more than just a book loaning service these days. They provide internet access for many people who otherwise wouldn't have online access, they provide educational support across all ages, and many libraries facilitate local community groups to run activities.

"The council has been trying to assure people that they will still have access to high quality library services, but unfortunately we cannot see how they can deliver on this promise.

FUNDING

"Services such as these cannot be run by volunteer groups – it would simply fall apart. The residents of the Vale deserve to have an efficient and professionally-run library service and that can only be achieved through appropriate funding and staffing".

Vale MP Alun Cairns described the consultation process as "flawed" and criticised the council for not giving enough consideration to the role that libraries play in child literacy and learning.

He said: "I am very disappointed that this decision has been made by the Vale Council. Financial settlements are getting tougher, but the local authority has chosen not to shelter council tax payers from a 3.9 per cent rise and still has a very substantial budget to deliver services.

" I am concerned that the role of a local library is simply being downgraded in many communities across the Vale. When I was young, the library played such an important role in my own learning, and asking volunteers to complete business plans does not help a youngster who may not have access to shelves of books at home."

Mr Cairns has been approached by campaigners in Rhoose, and the ward representative there, Coun Jeff James, said: "Rhoose Ward has a population of over 7,000, making it one of the largest communities in the Vale, with only the Towns of Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major having a greater population.

"Rhoose has grown steadily over the past 30 years but over that period the library has continued to be identified as a small rural l, but this description has not kept pace with growth and demand.

"It would be misleading, therefore, to think that Rhoose is a small rural village and that the library is little used, such as the other libraries considered in the library strategy. The reality is that Rhoose Library is the most used of those being considered for downgrading from professional to volunteer run.

"Since the installation of computers for public use, the number of older people and children using the library has increased dramatically. Rhws School supports the library and pupils gain access between the two buildings without going outside to the road or pavement.

"Rhws School has objected to the proposed downgrading of the library from professional to volunteer run".

Coun James went on to point out that another 700 homes are likely to be built in Rhoose, assuming the proposals are granted planning permission.

The Vale Council says the introduction of community led libraries is one of a number of changes to the service in the Vale needed to help it meet its £25million savings target for the next three years.

The establishment of community libraries is projected to save the council £187,000 while the reduction in opening hours at the larger facilities is due to save £256,000.

The consultation, to which 1,210 responses were received, also addressed the issue of moving St Athan library to another site in the village. Further discussion of this issue will now take place with any party expressing an interest in establishing a community library in the area.

Police call

***CADOC** – meet local officers at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry on Thursday, March 19, 10am-2pm.*

***ILLTYD** – meet local officers at Cafe No 5, High Street, Barry, on Friday, March 27, 10.30-12 noon.*

***GIBBONSDOWN PACT** at Gibbonsdown Residents' Board, Coychurch Rise, Barry, at 10.30am.*

***LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT** at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre on Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm.*

Plaid 'alternative budget to save libaries' voted down

A SUGGESTED alternative budget by Plaid Cymru to "save the Vale's library services from cuts" was defeated at the council's budget-setting meeting last week.

"Plaid Cymru's 'budget' included a 2.8 per cent council tax rise – compared with Labour's 3.9 per cent hike – but included the removal of controversial plans to cut library opening hours and create volunteer-run libraries in Dinas Powys, Rhoose, Wenvoe, St Athan and Sully," said Plaid councillor Ian Johnson.

He stated that the council was in a healthier financial position than neighbouring authorities, such as Cardiff, and that Vale residents shouldn't be punished for poor government in Westminster by losing services and eye-watering council tax rises.

"We know that Wales is under-funded by £1.2 billion when compared to Scotland and that the Vale's budget has been cut sharply by the Welsh Government in the past two years," he said.

"However, the Vale has been consistent in over-collecting council tax and under-spending its budget. Last year, there was a positive difference of £5 million and this year £3.6 million. On top of that, we have tens of millions of pounds in reserves."

Plaid Cymru believed there is "more than enough money to maintain services such as the Vale libraries," and was disappointed all the other parties opposed the amendment, he added.

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Challenge to return Island to former glory

VALE MP **ALUN CAIRNS** reports to GEM readers

WE will soon know whether visitors from all over the United Kingdom visiting Barry Island this summer will be looking at a shabby derelict site or a top class fairground beginning to take shape.

The Barry Island fairground project has become the symbolic feature in Barry during the re-invigoration of the largest town in Wales.

The prospect of seeing many millions of pounds being invested in Barry, and more importantly industry expertise come to the Island is incredibly exciting.

For many months, I have done all I can to encourage the project along, and seen a great deal of effort put in by all parties.

I have yet to meet a local resident that doesn't want to see the fairground site transformed into a site that can generate positive interest in the town.

It has been a very complicated project to bring together, but the end is now in sight and I am just hopeful that common-sense can prevail, along with a sense of ambition for Barry Island. And what a shot in the arm it would be for the local economy?

The businesses in Barry can share in the success of a new fairground, and I am certain that many new job opportunities will be created. I would recommend youngsters to grab an opportunity of working on a high quality fairground – the people skills that youngsters can gain are endless, and those same skills can be then used in any future career.

I invited Henry Danter, the showman hoping to run the attraction, to meet the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer recently to explain his plans. It was a very positive meeting. Just like the meeting held with FocusBarry group recently, Mr Danter showed so much passion for Barry and told us how his entire family are supporting the project.

David Cameron and George Osborne both listened to the plans with great interest, and wished him good luck with getting the project off the ground.

They have seen how other coastal towns like Brighton have been re-invigorated, and what a difference an operator with drive and ambition can make – that is what I want for Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan.

I have visited a number of schools recently and the number one question from pupils has been about the Pleasure Park. The next generation setting out in their career are interested in jobs or starting businesses, and understanding how we can return Barry Island to the place that their parents remember.

We are close to securing that. It has been a difficult process but with the right people involved, it can be done.

The views at Barry Island take my breath away every time, and I hope the summer of 2015 can be one of the busiest in decades. It would be wonderful.

Alun Cairns, George Osborne, Henry Danter and Christine Collins (business partner to Mr Danter) study the plans.

Row over 3G pitches rumbles on after a 'no show' meeting

SPORTS coaches in the Vale who are opposing Vale Council plans to provide 3G pitches at Jenner Park, Barry, were "disgusted" when no cabinet member attended a meeting called to discuss the issue, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

Coaches from mini-football and athletics are opposed to the plan. Athletics because they fear that the Jenner Park athletics facilities could be lost, and mini football because coaches believe that it will become a Barry Town only facility.

They want the pitches built at somewhere like Colcot, where a range of clubs could book the pitches.

Spokesman Lee Saunders told The GEM: "We invited all cabinet members to the meeting on Friday, May, 6, but not one turned up and only Gwyn John confirmed he would not be attending.

"The reason for the meeting was to highlight our fears for mini football and athletics, and to address the lack of communication from the cabinet in regards to the proposed plans.

"We know the feasibility study was handed back to the council in December. This has been confirmed by Coun Gwyn John and the consultants, but has yet to to cabinet. It was not added to the agenda for the March 9 meeting, when we were told it would be.

"We want to know why?"

He continued: "Welsh athletics, Barry & Vale Harriers, Cardiff & Vale athletics, Welsh schools athletics all attended the meeting on Friday, along with representatives from the VOG football league and the ward councillor for Rhoose, Coun Philip Clarke.

"They all wanted to put questions to the cabinet but feel disgusted that not one member turned up. All the above parties have asked for months to meet and they have not been willing".

At the moment, Barry Town and Rhoose FC use Jenner Park, and the council argument is that a 3G pitch would help these clubs strengthen their ties with the community.

However, Mr Saunders said: "Barry have two junior teams and no mini teams, while Rhoose have no junior or mini teams. So, we are talking less than 40 young players.

"Where will they gain these players? We all know where from, by poaching from other long established clubs, thereby wrecking them".

So far, more than 1,000 people have signed a petition opposing the plan, and around 40 football coaches have signed a letter of opposition.

A Vale Council spokesman said that the Leader, Coun Neil Moore, had been keen to attend the meeting, but was committed to a diary engagement.

However, a number of the coaches had been able to attend last Monday's cabinet meeting, and had asked questions there.

The spokesman continued: "The 3G pitch at Jenner Park is intended for the whole community, from women's teams, to senior and junior football.

"It will offer thousands of playing hours to groups in the Vale who book time on it".

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Guests at All Saints' get together to create a 'Smile' for Safer Internet Day.

Starring role for eCadets in transAtlantic film premiere

PUPILS at All Saints' C/W Primary School in Barry recently received star billing – when their film premiere was released to an international audience.

Safer Internet Day linked children from several countries in raising awareness of how the internet can be developed as a safe place.

A special promotional film was launched in schools across Wales, the UK and America and the special screening in Barry was watched simultaneously at Google's headquarters in the USA!

All Saints' school was chosen by Childnet to help promote Safer Internet Day because of the success of its 'eCadets' scheme. The pupil team is part of the nationwide eCadet scheme, which trains and supports children to help them keep their friends, parents and community safe online.

Last month, the team members were the only Welsh pupils to star in the trailer which launched national Safer Internet Day in schools across the UK.

The Deputy Minister for Technology and Skills, Julie James AM, attended the Wales launch, along with guests from the Welsh Government, the Vale Council, Llandaff Diocese and pupils from other schools.

Deputy head teacher Aled Williams said: "The day offered the opportunity to highlight the positive uses of technology and explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community."

Canon Edwin Counsell, the Diocesan director of education, also attended the launch event and commented: "The internet is shaping their learning and the lives of children in schools today.

"I'm delighted to see the children from All Saints and in so many schools developing these essential skills for life." **AY**

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THE WELSH MAN WHO GAVE PI TO THE WORLD

LOCAL youngsters are being called on to celebrate the first 'Pi Day Cymru' this week and have fun with maths, to honour the Welshman who gave Pi to the world.

The Americans have been celebrating March 14 as National Pi Day since 1988 and other countries have followed suit since then, acknowledging the pivotal role pi has played in engineering and technology.

But this year for the first time, Wales is staking its unique claim to the day by remembering Welsh-speaking mathematician William Jones who, in 1706, was the first person to use the Greek letter π or pi to represent the mathematical constant, which enables us to measure the circumference and area of circles.

Pi is an infinite decimal and not even the most powerful computers have managed to calculate its exact value but, for years, people have had fun trying to memorise as many of its digits as they can.

The idea for Pi Day Cymru came from retired professor Gareth Ffowc Roberts, who has received the official backing of the Welsh Government, eager to whet young people's appetite for maths by taking on Pi Day challenges and organising fun activities to mark the date.

The first three digits of pi are 3.14 which in the American calendar equates to March 14. This year is special; because the next two digits of pi are 15, so that 3.1415 equates to March 14, 2015. There are exact times during the day – 9.26 and 53 seconds (am and pm) – which correspond to the first 10 digits of pi: 3.141592653.

Said Professor Roberts: "Because this happens only once every 100 years it's an ideal time for Wales to get involved and to remember our nation's role in giving pi to the world. William Jones' recognition of the importance of pi and of its special properties proved to be a significant advance. Mathematicians, scientists and engineers keenly took up the idea, which had a major impact on the development of technology across the world at the dawn of the industrial revolution."

"They might want to video themselves doing a pi memory test – in English or in Welsh, William Jones's first language – or maybe young people could use pi to calculate the circumference of circular landmarks in their own localities and post pictures on Facebook or other social media," he said.

NEW EMMAUS STORE OPENS

THE Emmaus store on Cowbridge High Street will be officially opened by the Mayor at 9.30am on March 18.

"Emmaus was founded in 1949. A worldwide movement, it offers an alternative to homelessness by providing people with a home, work and companionship, to help them to regain their self-esteem," a spokeswoman explained.

The charity already has shops in Maesteg, Porthcawl and Neath and a shop and superstore in Bridgend. Later this year it will open a new Emmaus south Wales 'Community' for 23 people in a renovated former sheltered housing building in Bridgend.

Director Tom Clarke commented: "Now we can provide bargains for Cowbridge shoppers, which boosts our plans to help homeless people in south Wales back onto their feet."

Emmaus South Wales won the Bridgend Business Forum Award for the 'Social Enterprise of the Year' in 2014.

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Gladstone pupils go red for Wales to celebrate Saint's day!

CHILDREN and staff of Gladstone Primary School, Barry celebrated St David's Day when the usual school uniform of blue and black was switched to red – with most children dressing up in Welsh costume, Welsh sports shirts, or simply red!

The school eisteddfod was held in the afternoon, hosted by Mrs Reilly and Mrs Lindley, where art, handwriting and poetry competition winners were announced.

The celebrations also included Welsh folk dancing from Reception, a performance by the Infant choir, clarinet, flute and violin performances and, of course, lots of Welsh singing!

The Chairing of the Bard ceremony took place, assisted by druids from year-5 and dancers from year-2. This year's year-6 bard was Kelly Shi with her poem entitled 'My Wales'.

The staff at Gladstone were overwhelmed by the quality of the home task entries, which was to design and create a Welsh coat of arms.

Diolch to everybody who participated and llongyfarchiadau to all the competition winners! **HR**

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Charity art auction

A CHARITABLE auction of Welsh art takes place as part of World at Play, on Friday, March 20 from 7pm at the Kooywood Gallery, 8 Museum Place, Cardiff.

Original works by leading Welsh artists will be sold in aid of disadvantaged young people.

Clean-up

THIS Sunday, March 15, Friends of Barry Beaches will be cleaning Jackson's Bay beach, Barry Island, from 3pm. All litter picking equipment will be supplied.

Former Plaid leader to warn against fracking

Dafydd Wigley, addresses an anti-fracking meeting, with the Director of Friends of the Earth Cymru, Gareth Clubb.
Picture by Nigel Pugh.

FORMER Plaid Cymru leader, Dafydd Wigley, will address a public meeting at 7.30pm in the Windsor Arms, Penarth tomorrow (Friday) on the dangers of fracking and to give an update on measures being taken to stop it in Wales.

The ex-MP, Assembly Member, and member of the House of Lords has headed up the Plaid campaign on the issue which is of particular concern in the Vale of Glamorgan, where planning permission has been given for test drilling at three sites.

Dafydd Wigley said: "The fact that we will be getting control over fracking in Wales is a direct result of the lead taken by Plaid Cymru, both at Westminster and at the National Assembly.

"We will now have the powers for a total moratorium on fracking in Wales, but we must ensure this is delivered quickly so that no permissions are given before it's in place."

Friday's meeting will be hosted by Party of Wales Cardiff South and Penarth parliamentary candidate, Ben Foday, who said:

"We oppose fracking because of the danger it poses to the environment, water and health."

Brewery staff opt for Tenovus

SA BRAIN has announced that its new charity partner is Tenovus Cancer Care, following a staff vote.

The charity, which currently has almost 2,000 volunteers and supports people affected by cancer with free emotional and practical support, funds £1million of research annually.

People visiting the company's pubs and coffee shops will have the opportunity to donate to Tenovus Cancer Care, and employees at SA Brain will spend the next year raising funds for the charity in a number of exciting ways.

Clare Gallie, director of income generation for Tenovus Cancer Care, said: "This is a really exciting and important partnership for us. The money raised will make a big difference to our work supporting cancer patients and their loved ones, and by having a presence in SA Brains outlets across Wales we will be able to let more people know about the support we can offer."

If you or someone you love has been affected by cancer, Tenovus Cancer Care can offer help and support. To find out more call the Tenovus Cancer Care free Support Line on 0808 808 1010 or visit tenovuscancercare.org.uk.

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Community stunned by tragic death of teenagers in crash

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

AFTER a tragic and traumatic weekend, the town of Barry is in shock over the death of four people in a crash on the A470 near Brecon – three of the dead were 17-year-olds from Barry.

In a separate incident, an 18-year-old man from Barry is in intensive care after an attack in a Porthcawl caravan park.

The tragic events began at 10.15pm on Friday, March 6, on the A470 between Libanus and RAC bends near Storey Arms, Powys.

Two vehicles were involved in a collision, a black Volkswagen Golf estate and a green Volkswagen Golf.

The green VW contained five young people from Barry and the driver, Rhodri Miller, and a passenger, Corey Price, were declared dead at the scene.

Alesha O'Connor, also 17, was taken to hospital, where she died of her injuries.

The other two passengers in the green VW were taken to hospital with serious injuries.

The driver and front seat passenger in the black VW Golf estate were taken to hospital with serious injuries. The passenger, 68-year-old Margaret Elizabeth Challis (nee Webber) from the Merthyr area, died in hospital from her injuries.

A police spokeswoman said: "It is believed that a number of vehicles were travelling in convoy at the time of the collision."

These vehicles were heading towards Brecon, while Margaret Challis' car was heading in the opposite direction.

Following the accident, five male drivers, from other vehicles in the convoy, were arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving. They were later released on police bail.

Later that night, two more males were arrested and also later released on bail. All seven were either 17 or 18 years old.

The first tributes released were from the immediate family of the victims.

The parents of Rhodri Miller said: "Rhodri was a bright talented 17-year-old who had so much to live for. He was studying for his A-Levels at Bro Morgannwg School.

"He was a very popular boy inside and outside of school; he loved his football, was a season ticket holder for Cardiff City Football Club, and loved going to the gym.

"He will be very sadly missed by family and friends, and all who knew him."

Paul and Sharon, Alesha's parents, said: "Alesha was a kind loving child, a much loved baby sister AND OUR BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS.

"She was much loved by all her extended family. She was the perfect daughter and friend and has left a massive void in our family.

"Alesha was beautiful, intelligent and artistic and had her whole life ahead of her.

Corey Price.

Alesha O'Connor and Rhodri Miller.

Margaret Challis

"We as a family would like to pass on our sympathy to the other families who have lost loved ones."

The parents of Corey Price said: "The family of Corey are devastated by the sudden and tragic loss of their wonderful, gentle and caring son, brother, uncle and grandson.

"No words can explain how we are feeling but we are truly grateful for the support of our family and friends at this tragic time."

Both Rhodri Miller and Corey Price were pupils at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, and the headteacher, Dylan Jones, remembered both boys as talented in different ways, with Rhodri excelling in science and Corey showing great promise as a footballer.

The school week at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg started on Monday morning with an emotional service at the morning assembly.

Alesha O'Connor was a former pupil of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, and was studying for A-Levels at St David's Sixth Form College in Cardiff.

There were emotional scenes at morning assembly there too, as pupils arrived. At both schools, displays of floral tributes grew rapidly.

A Vale Council spokesman said that any school had been offered its full support, through counselling services or any other means.

A community memorial service was held yesterday evening (Wednesday) at the Windsor Road Chapel in Barry, arranged by Lindsay Ellis, of Vale Funeral Services.

He said: "Barry is in a state of shock, and it was a chance for people to reflect on the tragedy."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "I have made contact with all of the families involved in this tragic situation. My prayers go out to all involved.

"It is deeply sad to see these young lives lost and the impact it has had on family, friends and the wider community in Barry and the rest of the Vale. I offer my deepest condolences and support to the local community."

Although Barry is the largest town in Wales, it still seems that everyone knows someone who has been affected.

This is true for staff here at The GEM, and everyone on this newspaper shares that sense of shock.

A friend of Alesha's, Ella Watts, said: "Alesha was beautiful, outgoing, funny and constantly happy. She was way too young. Her best friends want her story to be shared – so that people are more aware of how the community of Barry has come together to celebrate the three young, lost lives.

"I've written a poem which has touched many people on social media and I would love for as many people as possible to see this."

Prayer for Alesha O'Connor
22.10.97 - 7.03.15

I hope this prayer reaches Heaven,
I hope this prayer reaches you;
I hope you've found comfort,
Like we're trying to.
We'll miss you always, till the end of days,
We'll love you forever,
shine down on us through the sun's rays,
You are our angel now,
Looking down on us from above,
Your beauty is beyond words,
You are still with your one true love.
We'll never be the same without you,
You were a big part of our lives,
You are a true inspiration,
To all 'wannabe housewives'

DOLPHIN DISPUTE COULD DERAIL FUN FAIR PLANS

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE planning committee of the Vale Council will meet tonight (Thursday) to consider an application that has implications for the future of Barry Island fun fair.

Although the Midlands-based showman Henry Danter says that everything is ready to move onto the site and be open for business by Easter, a complicated planning dispute between the Vale Council and the Barry Island Property Company, which owns the land, is putting the timetable in peril.

Rob Thomas, the Vale Council's director of development services, said: "We are eager to see a funfair open once more on Barry Island as soon as possible and have done everything within our power to make this happen.

"Unfortunately what we cannot do is grant Mr Danter access to the site. The only people who can do this are its current owners.

"It appears their priority is the redevelopment of the Dolphin public house which sits alongside the derelict Barry Island pleasure park. An application for the redevelopment of the building for housing and commercial use is due to be considered on March 12 (today).

"However, there is no reason that the sale of the funfair site cannot progress in the meantime. Likewise, there is no reason why Mr Danter cannot be given immediate access to set up the site in time for Easter, given that he does not need planning permission or the consent of the council."

The stumbling block appears to be conditions placed on the Dolphin development – a housing and commercial complex, with 25 flats – by the Vale Council in terms of Section 106 money, and in terms of the percentage of housing units that should be "affordable".

The Barry Island Property Company's advisors have disagreed with the council over this, feeling that the total value of the demands will make their scheme unviable, and have asked the District Valuer to step in and rule on the matter.

However, whether the contents of that report will bring about a resolution to the dispute in time for tonight's planning meeting is a matter for debate.

QUILT EXHIBITION

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, is encouraging people to visit the Mothers of Africa quilt exhibition at the Senedd, which is open until March 18.

The Cardiff-based medical education charity Mothers of Africa provide training for nurses, caring for pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa.

Maggie Cullinane, of the Cardiff School of Art and Design, has supported the charity via a novel quilt fundraising project which involved students and friends being sponsored to create fabric squares to be made up into a quilt.

Woman dies in house fire

AN elderly woman has died after a house fire in Penarth.

The Police and Fire Service were called to a property on Cedar Way, Penarth, just before 7.30pm on Tuesday, March 10 after reports of smoke coming from the premises. The elderly lady was found inside.

A South Wales Police spokeswoman said: "The cause of her death is not yet known and an investigation into the cause of the fire is under way. At this stage, the incident is being treated as unexplained.

"Officers are in the process of informing the lady's next of kin and formally identifying her.

"No-one else is believed to have been inside the house at the time and no-one else has been reported injured.

"Anyone with information on the fire is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference number 1500083383."

Three of the best!

COUN Richard Bertin believes that Julia Grillard is Barry's greatest person (The GEM, February 26 – 'I vote for Julie').

Well, I can suggest three greater ones!

1) David Davies of Llandinam, not born here, but responsible for making Barry the business coal-exporting port in the world by 1913.

2) Gareth James, investigative journalist, who, to world-wide disbelief, exposed the terrible famine – the Holidomopy – in the Ukraine. A blue plaque is on his family home in Romilly Road. He was believed to have been murdered, probably by Stalin's NKVD, in Mongolia in the 1930s.

3), Gwyn Thomas: teacher of Spanish at Barry Grammar School; raconteur; poet; broadcaster; inspirational speaker and personality.

Christopher Short,
Barry.

Council 'storing up winter woes'

PLAID Cymru councillors have warned that many roads in the Vale may go un-gritted next winter, claiming the Vale Council's budget showed £80,000 is being cut from the winter maintenance budget.

Coun Chris Franks asked for clarification on the plans for the new financial year, and said that communities should be consulted.

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You can call us on 01446 774484 or email: gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk; also all four of our GEM editions – Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Bridgend and Porthcawl – are available to read online at no cost, Simply visit the following websites: www.barry-today.co.uk, www.cowbridge-today.co.uk, www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk, www.bridgend-today.co.uk, and you can read your GEM newspaper on your computer, tablet, or even your smart phone!

Flybe expands flights from the Cardiff Airport

PASSENGERS across Wales will now be able to fly from Cardiff Airport to destinations such as Faro, Munich, and Milan after a new 11-route network was announced with Flybe, Europe's largest regional airline last week.

From this summer, travellers can take advantage of fares starting at £24.99 and flights to new routes from Cardiff to Cork, Dublin, Edinburgh, Faro, Glasgow, Munich, Milan and Paris, as well as to existing routes between Cardiff and Belfast, Düsseldorf and Jersey, a spokesperspon said.

The new network will see over half a million seats going on sale, with the first on sale at www.flybe.com.

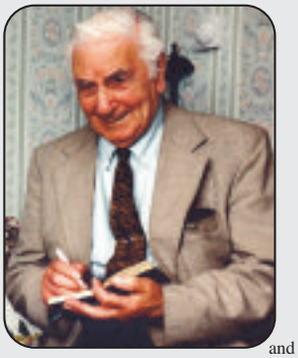
Saad Hammad with Sir David Rowe-Beddoe.

Saad Hammad, CEO, Flybe said: "We are delighted to launch these exciting new routes from Cardiff Airport which involves us basing two of these jets there to serve the Welsh market with great value fares and further improving UK regional connectivity."

The First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones AM said: "Flybe's announcement that it is opening a new base operating 11 routes from Cardiff Airport is fantastic news. We've always said that we want the airport to be a gateway to Wales, to drive our economy by bringing tourists and business to the country. We've already invested in improving the overall customer experience at Cardiff Airport and the new routes to major European destinations, as well as the creation of 50 new jobs, demonstrates Flybe's commitment to the Airport and will help to make it the success we know it can be."

OBITUARY: ALFRED MILLS, Barry (1911-2015)

It is with the deepest sorrow that we have to report the death on Monday of the highly-respected local historian and long-standing GEM contributor, Alfred ('Alf') Mills, whose fascinating personal accounts of times past in the Vale endeared him to our readers over many years. Always the perfect gentleman, he will be sadly missed, not least by everyone here at The GEM. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.



BORN in Whitchurch, Cardiff of English parents, Alfred grew up with a brother and three sisters in Rhoose and Porthkerry, with his father working on the land in and around Porthkerry.

He attended Porthkerry School (in which one of his sisters eventually lived), followed by attendance at Romilly Road School and eventually he reached Barry County Grammar School and was tutored in book-keeping and accountancy.

All of his working life was spent entirely at Rhoose Cement works, where he started as a stave lad – and later, Aberthaw Cement works, with some time at the Rhoose Asbestos factory.

Some of his work was taken up as a plate layer, responsible for railway track maintenance within the works site, but he eventually operated quarry haulage winches at the Rhoose and Aberthaw crushing plants, followed by a similar role at Aberthaw. He learned to operate the quarry navvy and, finally, for many years the main quarry haulage winch at Rhoose works.

With the abolition of the quarry haulage at Rhoose works, following massive modifications and the addition of a new cement kiln, by 1959 he became spare locomotive driver and weigh-bridge attendant at Rhoose works.

Married at Neath in 1935, he and his wife Edith, moved to Park Crescent in Barry and in 1937 they raised a son, and after a move to High Street, followed by a further move to his 'lifetime' dwelling at Queen Street from 1941, raised a second son in 1942 and a daughter in 1947.

He relished the countryside and local developments and became something of a local historian, and his writings have been a regular feature in The GEM.

In August 1996 he published a booklet, "*Memories immune to time*", which apparently sold 6,000 copies, though he received no remuneration.

For a while he became a special constable at Barry, but turned to his love of first aid, which he was involved in at the Aberthaw Cement Company's works.

Between 1958 and 1981, he was a voluntary St John Ambulance person and became superintendent, Barry Dock Division. On his retirement from his regular Rhoose cement works employment, he was asked by the company to carry on with first aid training at Rhoose and Aberthaw works, and even did a spell of teaching first aid to students at Barry Training College into his 80s.

On leaving the St John Ambulance group, he moved to the Red Cross organisation and spent many hours at the Barry Island First Aid station – and even met up with royalty on a couple of occasions.

On his 93rd birthday, The GEM treated him to a pleasure flight from Rhoose airport and he took the controls in flight of the light aircraft for a couple of minutes under supervision of the pilot.

Remarkably he recovered from a serious accident at Aberthaw works in 1944, when he fractured his spine and was off work for 18 months.

In 1970, he suffered a serious injury in a car accident near his Barry home. He never fully recovered from that, losing some dexterity in his hands; ironically, he was still driving a few years ago but was involved in yet another car accident very near his home!

However, he managed to acquire another small car which he drove until he had almost reached 100, when he received the Queen's Telegram.

Until a couple of years ago, he was still doing his own cooking, washing and ironing, but arthritis in his knees was a setback. With a chairlift to overcome the house stairway, he was living alone following the death of his wife in December 2001.

Walking became a somewhat painful affair and he was regularly overseen by his immediate family, especially his daughter and son-in-law who helped immensely in his longevity.

Until January this year he was still doing his Daily Mirror crossword but his health deteriorated seriously after a couple of falls in his home and he became hospitalised on February 28.

At almost 104 years of age, he passed away at Heath Hospital on March 9, leaving two sons, a daughter, two grand-sons, four grand-daughters, two great grand-daughters and two great-grandsons.

BRIAN MILLS

How music inspires sick and elderly

MEMBERS of the Penarth and Llandough Mothers' Union were enthralled by a talk given on March 5 by Robert Aitken CBE, on 'Music in Hospitals'.

He talked about how music can uplift, inspire and encourage those who are ill in hospital or living in residential or nursing homes. Colonel Aitken, who heads Music in Hospitals in Wales, spoke passionately about the therapeutic value of music and how singing, in particular, is good for the brain.

"Music", he said, "has the power to connect with the brain in a remarkable way, and is a powerful tool for stimulating people who are ill, have dementia or who may just need cheering up".

Music in Hospitals is a charity founded in 1948 and works across the whole of the UK, where every year it gives 5,000 concerts and performances in various settings, of which 500 are in Wales.

All concerts are given by professional musicians who give their services free, or charge minimal fees and travel expenses.

Colonel Aitken suggested that a very special birthday present to someone no longer living at home was to get Music in Hospitals to come and give a performance – particularly if the music chosen was known to be particularly loved by the recipient.

Anyone wanting to ask Music in Hospital to perform for a group or individual should contact Col Aitken on 02920 391415 or email Wales@musicinhospitals.org.uk

ARCHIVE TELLS OF ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN WELSH INDUSTRY

AT Canolfan Soar, Merthyr Tydfil on March 25 the Women's Archive of Wales will be launching the final report of a Heritage-Lottery Funded oral history project, 'Voices From the Factory Floor.'

Some 210 interviews have been recorded and transcribed, 60 of them in the medium of Welsh, describing the life and work at 208 different factories.

A spokeswoman said: "Although the significance of the manufacturing industries to the economy of Wales in the period after the Second World War is recognised, the key role women played is often forgotten.

"Many of the women who worked in these factories are now elderly and the Women's Archive of Wales, fulfilling one of its main objectives, to preserve women's history, wanted to record the experiences of this factory life before it was entirely forgotten."

A dedicated website, www.factorywomensvoices.wales will also be launched on March 25.

Voices from the Factory Floor

"I'D done the Welsh feathers and the Lady Diana ring and they were beautiful things. They were the three feathers. They would come in two pieces. I would solder a little blob with a crown.

"I believe we got feathers and a crown that were joined together, and then I would put a hook and a hinge for a pin to go on so it would be a brooch, and then it would go to other sections then to be cleaned up or plated whatever."

AO; *Attwood and Sawyer Factory, Porthcawl*

"YES, if you didn't do your work, if you weren't pulling your weight then yes, you would lose your job because you had to keep up on a production line.

"So if you didn't keep up, or were chatting and laughing not keeping up on the line, then you would lose your job, because it was a production line.

"There was a belt running down the middle of the production line and the garments came down on the belt. You took it off, did your part, put it back on the belt for the next person, so it was a continuous line all the time. You had to keep up."

GR; *London Pride Factory, Bridgend*

"WE had the strong impression that we were being discouraged from trade union activity. Determined to proceed with our plans, we made an appointment to consult a local, leading trade union supporter to ask his advice.

"He reacted by contacting the local press, as a result of which, headlines the next day proclaimed that 'Trade union membership was being discouraged at a Local Underwear Factory.'

"This embarrassing revelation led to a change of heart at the Sidroy Mills, with management complying with our aim to create a local branch of the Tailor & Garment Workers' Union.

"At the first general meeting, members were elected to fill the posts of chairman, secretary and treasurer, with my sister and I elected as chair and secretary of the branch and when properly established, members elected us as delegates to the local Trade Union Council."

DC; *Sidroy Underwear Factory, Barry*

FRIENDS' spring talk

AS part of the International Women's Week art exhibition at Art Central Gallery, artist Josephine Sowden will give an illustrated talk about her work to Art Central FRIENDS on March 16 at the Gallery on King Square at 7.30pm. Non members are welcome.

There will also be a 'Meet and Greet' coffee morning at St Francis Millenium Centre, Porth y Castell this Saturday (March 14) at 10.30am for existing and prospective members of the FRIENDS.

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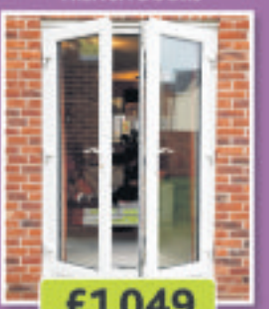
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Out and About with The GEM

What's on and where in your area

Councillors' surgery

LABOUR Vale and town councillors for Castleland ward, Barry: Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Karl Kuhnell and Les Sword will hold their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, March 14 from 10.30am to 12 noon in Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

No appointment necessary.

Street surgery

INDEPENDENT councillors Richard and Robert Bertin will hold a street surgery on Saturday, March 14 in Davies Street and Lee Road, Barry between 11am and noon.

Further details on 01446 736227.

Mothering Sunday

THIS Sunday (March 15) from 9.45am at Barry's St David's Methodist Church an All Age Service will focus on Mothers, with activities for children.

For more information contact Rev Peter Taylor on 01446 406262, or at revpete@live.co.uk

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, March 15 at 2pm, 'Back to Cold Knap and over the top' starting at Porthkerry Country Park, car park at the bottom of the hill.

On Tuesday, March 17 at 10am, Hoffi Cerdded, Hoffi Coffi, starting at Cowbridge Library.

On Wednesday, March 18 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park, Penarth.

On Thursday, March 19 at 10.30am, Castle Upon Alun daffodils, starting at the car park opposite the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major.

Trust meets

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust Members and Volunteers' monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 7.30pm in The Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge.

Dr Alun Armstrong will give an illustrated talk about the history and symbolism of the Welsh love spoon. New members welcome.

The AGM will be held on April 15 at 7pm when it is hoped to adopt a new constitution; followed by a talk on Flat Holm Island by Mr Peter Sampson.

Art society

THIS evening at Cowbridge Art Society, Penarth artist Andrew Coslett will give a demonstration of painting in watercolours and on Thursday, March 19, Liam O'Conner will demonstrate starting a portrait in oils.

The Society meets at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, each Thursday (7pm-9pm) and non-members are welcome.

Time for a cuppa

COURT officers will be holding a 'Cuppa with a Copper' on Thursday, March 19 at 4pm in the cafe at the YMCA, Court Road, Barry.

Reading Room

BONVILSTON Reading Room's AGM will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room for a review of 2014, the presentation of the accounts and the election of the committee.

The AGM will be followed by a short talk given by Paul Fisher, on the history of cigar making in south Wales.

Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

Choral society concert

THE next concert given by the Cowbridge Choral Society will be on Saturday, March 28 in Holy Cross Church, when the society will be joined by the Pontypridd Choral Society for a performance of *Mozart* and *Saint Saens Requiems*.

Tickets available from society members, Davies Newsagent, Cowbridge and the box office (01446 792175).

New members are always welcome to join, and experience is not essential.

Rehearsals take place in the United Free Church, Westgate Street (opposite the police station) every Thursday at 7.30pm.

Cottrell Park antiques fair

COTTRELL Park Golf resort will be hosting an antique and collectors' fair on Saturday, April 4 in the warmth of 'Tylor's Cabin' and the Conservatory. Refreshments will be available to purchase, from the clubhouse; entrance £1; free car parking.

Telephone Ann (01446 796128) or Peta (01446 713483) for full details.

Walk the Vale

THE annual walk will take place on Easter Monday, April 6 starting from The Plough & Harrow, Monknash (registering from 9.30am.

There will be a long walk and a short walk, to support brain tumour patients, their families and friends.

Details are available on www.edevansfoundation.co.uk or telelphone 01656 890217.

Meeting cancelled

COWBRIDGE Senior Citizens' meetings on March 19 has been cancelled and will now be held on Thursday, April 16 at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge at 2pm.

Barry Mayor's charity dinner

BARRY Town Mayor, Coun Jeff Evans is inviting the public, voluntary organisations and local businesses to join him at his annual dinner dance for charity on Friday, April 17.

Tickets are now available at £28 (£25 for senior citizens).

The annual dinner dance proceeds go to the Mayor's chosen charities, which this year are The Jam Fund and ValePlus.

It will be held at the Wenvoe Castle Golf Club and the theme is 'The Roaring Twenties'.

The ticket price includes a four course meal, live entertainment and a disco, and there will be a raffle followed by an auction.

For more details contact the Mayor's secretary, Mrs Julie Hurd, on 01446 704921, or at juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Three Phantoms!

THREE *Phantom of the Opera* stars are taking part in a special charity concert at the City Hall in Cardiff, on Sunday, May 17 at 7pm in aid of Welsh Hearts.

For more information contact 02920 786521, or www.welshhearts.org.

Age Connect spring fayre

AGE CONNECT'S Cardiff and Vale is holding a spring fayre at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on Thursday, March 26 (10am to 12 midday)

A wide range of stalls including crafts made by Stitch and Bitch Class, bric-a-brac and books, home made cakes and raffle.

All proceeds to the Ageing Well Project. Free admission.

Auerbach art to go on show

TWO paintings by artist Frank Auerbach have found a permanent home at the National Museum in Cardiff and will be on display from March 17.

They were accepted in lieu of inheritance tax from the estate of world-famous artist, Lucian Freud, who died in 2011.

They are Auerbach's oil on canvas *Tree on Primrose Hill* 1985-89, and the felt pen on paper *Tree (Primrose Hill)*. A third oil painting, *Head of EOW 1955* will come to the museum in 2016, following its loan to Tate's retrospective of the artist at the end of this year.

The three paintings are part of a collection of 40 paintings and drawings by Frank Auerbach collected by Lucian Freud over many years.

Fibromyalgia advice

AGE CONNECTS Cardiff and Vale, held a health topic session on fibromyalgia at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, recently.

Over 20 members talked to the adviser about this condition.

Because of the success of the session, it is planned to have another in August.

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Performers take to the stage for the Haiti charity

THE 2010 earthquake in Haiti claimed over 200,000 lives.

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Unemployment runs at 80 per cent – street traders earn about £30 a month.

Haiti is going to take a total of 20 years to restructure. Lots of children eat food every other day.

Haiti Hospital Appeal, a charity started by two British drama students, has built a spinal case unit for people – severely injured in the quake – and they have also opened a hospital.

This campaign raises money for Haiti Hospital Appeal.

The Barry-based 'Pukka Theatre Group' (PUKKA) will be presenting a show at the Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry on Sunday, March 29.

The show will run from approximately 3pm to 5pm – doors open at 2.30pm.

The singers range from children up to adults. The show *Celebrate the 1920s* will feature music from *Bugsy Malone, Chicago, Singing in the Rain* and other shows of the era.

It promises to be an unforgettable afternoon. Bar facilities and a raffle will also be available.

Tickets are available from me at £5 each or people can pay on the door (telephone 749727 for tickets and further information). Other shows will take place later on.

Jane Hutt and Mischelle Smith are honourary patrons of this campaign. Many thanks are extended to all those people who support this campaign.

Godfrey Knight, Barry.

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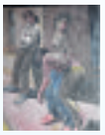
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Join us for a complimentary glass of wine at 6:30pm,
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View online from 10th March at www.kooywoodgallery.com

THIS CHAPPIE IS WORTH WATCHING!

by **GARETH JAMIESON**
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

WHEN Neill Blomkamp burst onto the scene with 2009's *District 9*, it was a stunning debut from the South African director, marrying spectacle and substance beautifully, a sci-fi yarn that beneath the surface made some cutting observations about the nature of segregation.

When Blomkamp's second effort riffed on the same themes the result was the ineffective *Elysium*, so he has much to prove with his third effort, *Chappie*.

It tells the story of the titular robot (motion captured by regular collaborator Sharlto Copley), a police robot who is reprogrammed by Deon (Dev Patel), after he develops technology to create a sentient being, allowing Chappie to think, feel and communicate.

However, his presence doesn't go unnoticed and Deon's co-worker (and former soldier) Vincent Moore (Hugh Jackman) takes it upon himself to nullify any threat that Chappie may pose – but he won't go down without a fight...

With *Chappie*, you could think that Neill Blomkamp has gone to the well too many times.

Much like his first two films, it is a story of man struggling to come to terms with a new technological dawn, set in the near future, while working on both a basic and a deeper level.

In terms of where it falls between *District 9* and *Elysium*, it falls to the former more, and feels like a 21st century version of *Short Circuit*, albeit with more mature, weightier concerns.

Andy Serkis seems to be considered the king of the motion capture arena, but you can see from this evidence that Sharlto Copley could easily challenge that should he wish to, as it is his central performance as Chappie that holds everything together.

It wouldn't work if it was in any way flawed, but it is just sublime, not just Copley's performance that captures the wide-eyed innocence of creation all the way to the bitterness and anger of loss and hatred, but also on a technological level.

Blomkamp's ability to marshal and push computer effects pays incredible dividends with a photo-realistic character that the largely human cast can bounce off.

Most impressive of these are Dev Patel as Chappie's creator, or 'maker' as the robot calls him the actor throwing off the stereotypes of these boffin types with a fresh face and personality, trying to do the right thing even when it goes against his employers' wishes, while Ninja and Yolandi of South African rap duo Die Antwoord (yeah, me neither) seemingly play themselves as criminals intent on using Chappie as a tool to get them out of a fix.

These two suffer from an inability to act, meaning that some of the more emotional moments lose their impact when they are involved.

But it's not just rappers that suffer in terms of acting – big names also don't quite work either.

Hugh Jackman may sport an impressive mullet, but his character's murky motivations (competitive jealousy) don't quite feel right, and Jackman plays the character a little too broadly at times, resembling Pat Sharp wearing Steve Irwin's wardrobe.

Sigourney Weaver has a small role, but saddled with weak dialogue as Deon and Vincent's boss, she is unconvincing and slightly wooden, a rare misstep for a fine actress.

Where the film really comes to life is in Blomkamp's direction.

Visually superb, and using the worn-out look of Johannesburg, he captures the anarchy that has resulted in the use of a mechanised police force, and the dangerous characters within it, wonderfully well; while technologically he hits all the right notes, the film's climax high-octane with a side order of epic.

The script aims to make salient points about man's reliance on technology, how we are both awed and in fear of what the future may bring, but wisely chooses not to play the satire card; instead, much like *District 9*, it plays it for realism, and as a result it works extremely well.

The notion of nature versus nurture is well examined (Chappie is in essence a child, forced to do some rapid growing up in a harsh environment) as is the level of consciousness within artificial intelligence (something that is becoming 2015's theme of choice).

With Blomkamp's next film a new entry in the *Alien* saga, it seems the director has rediscovered his mojo with Chappie; it's not without its faults, but once it warms up and gets going there's much to enjoy.

VERDICT – *A return to form after the slightly disappointing Elysium, Chappie sees Neill Blomkamp create a film that manages to be both heartwarming and epic, in terms of its visual spectacle.*

Intelligent, but not short of brawn, it plays broadly but with enough going on to keep you engaged. Worth watching.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *District 9* (2009), *Short Circuit* (1986).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D869.

- **£2,000:** 841156.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £6,000 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 604113, 841865, 502149, 379598, 393787, 145380, 685612, 149025, 166020, 384846, 740233, 135431, 720215, 701576, 139500, 410867, 648039, 302868, 237099, 881147.
- **£5:** 874576, 898564, 524306, 855269, 236135, 281730, 525732, 134216, 514473, 611599, 393874, 111744, 848280, 742541, 775167, 545733, 835020, 304736, 246378, 429020, 108038, 806475, 694050, 854377, 816746, 569695, 727127, 218262, 291395, 854209, 829292, 937024, 479911, 384557, 493025, 515545, 932475, 532336, 325354, 346543, 918642, 230350, 439735, 587988, 865861, 598606, 104910, 954759, 560689, 483938, 402181, 735475, 922339, 858965, 996463, 601044, 203547, 691194, 375504, 1573.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Learn how to grow your own!

BARRY Community Garden is taking part in the Big Dig 2015 on Saturday, March 21 from 12pm – 3pm at its base off Dyfnallt Road, Barry, CF63 1RU.

Clare Horrell from the Big Dig said: "This is a great way to take the first step to get involved in growing your own and discovering your local edible garden.

Lisa Williams of Barry Community Garden said: "We took part in this event last September and had a great turnout, with lots of visitors getting stuck in. Some of our volunteers made some fantastic cakes and we managed to keep the refreshments going all day! We're hoping to attract high numbers of visitors again on March 21."

WIN A £500 SPRING SHOPPING TREAT AT ST DAVID'S CARDIFF!

Glamorgan GEM

St David's Dewi Sant

ST DAVID'S CARDIFF is Wales' leading shopping destination. With over 180 stores, restaurants and cafes to explore, it offers the ultimate fashion and foodie day out, from high street to high end, and one lucky winner will receive a £500 gift card to create the perfect spring wardrobe!

The winner will be able to shop at the unrivalled brands throughout St David's, many of which are 'firsts' for Wales, such as **Vivienne Westwood**, **Armani Exchange** and **Cath Kidston**. The day of indulgent retail therapy can also be enjoyed with a bite to eat at one of the centres many cafes and restaurants, including **Cosy Club**, **Jamie's Italian** and **Wahaca**.

To celebrate the start of spring, St David's is giving shoppers that spend £70 or more between 23 – 29 March 2015 a gorgeous goodie bag, packed full of colourful spring treats and exclusive in-store discounts and offers.

For the chance to win a £500 St David's gift card, please answer the following question:

What date is St David's Day?

For more info on St David's, head to www.stdavidscardiff.com or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. #SpringbySD.

The £500 St David's gift card can be redeemed at shops, restaurants and cafes throughout the centre- some exclusions apply.

E-mail gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk or write to us at Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL including your e-mail address and telephone number.

One winner will be selected at random after the closing date on 26th March 2015. The winner will be notified by telephone. Prize is not transferable, and there are no whole/part cash alternatives. Normal GEM terms and conditions apply.

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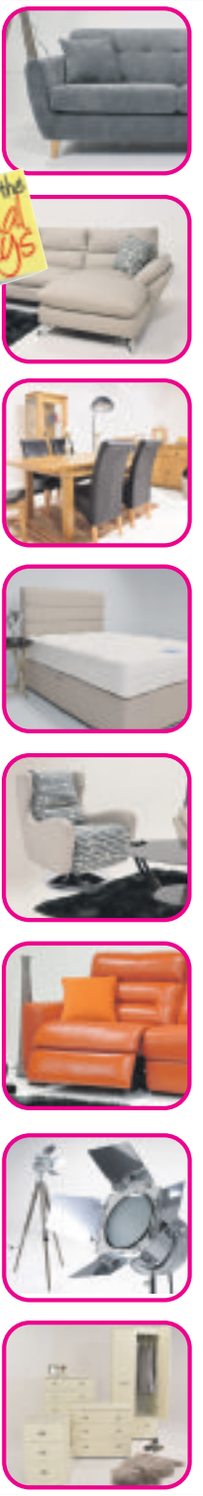
There has never been a better time to grab your self a bargain

DOORS OPEN TODAY 9AM SHARP

HURRY!

First come first served

NOW IN THE FINAL DAYS



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Tue - Thur: 9.30am - 6.00pm
Fri - Sat: 9.00am - 6.00pm
Sunday: 10.30am - 4.30pm

KiddieWinkles put on their patriotic outfits!

KIDDIEWINKLES Playgroup celebrated St David's Day on March 2 with children and staff dressed in traditional Welsh costume, rugby shirts and red tops.

Welsh cakes went down a treat at snack time and everyone took part in singing and dancing during the morning! At the end of the session, all children went home with a special daffodil and a Welsh Dragon colouring sheet.

Contact the playgroup on 07855 369601. It is based in Crossway Methodist Church, Crossway Street, Barry. ***KJ***

READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

ON THE PLUS SIDE OUTSIDE THE EU...

YOUR recent letters correspondent invites us to imagine life post EU, so I will give it a try!

First, expect government by politicians who are answerable to their electorates...

Escape from the common fisheries policy and reclaim historic fishing grounds. No longer the disgraceful practice of throwing thousands of tons of dead fish back into the sea...

Farmers grow what they think is best and not what they are told...

Join EFTA. This is a trading union (with full access to the EU single market) which is what we thought the Common Market was, when we joined all those years ago.

Mr Heath said: "*There are some in this country who fear that, in going into Europe, we shall in some way sacrifice independence and sovereignty. These fears, I need hardly say, are completely unjustified*". He was having a laugh...

Our own seat on supranational bodies: your correspondent says that Norway must dance to the EU's tune. Leave it aside that Norway does so at vastly smaller cost than does the UK; the EU itself has to dance to the tunes of the World Trade Organisation, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, UN Economic Commission for Europe, Aarhus Convention on the environment and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Norway has its own seat at these; the UK, being represented by Europe, has one/twenty-eighth of a seat...

Maintain trade with the EU, but expand trade with the rest of the world. The UK runs a trade deficit with the EU; would the EU ban its own exports? Under article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty the EU is legally mandated to trade with non-EU countries, which would include the UK...

Spend more of our own money as we wish. At present, we have to ask for it back, and get just some of our previous contribution, which comes with instructions on how to spend it...

Look out for the UK's interests. The EU is determined to keep its currency alive and will always aim for pro-euro economic policies.

London has just escaped by the skin of its teeth from losing the euro denominated stock and bond trade. It would be interesting to know whether any of the companies threatening to abandon the UK for Europe if it leaves were also in favour of the UK joining the euro.

Last (for now) but by no means least, regain border control, instead of the current system of mutual gate crashing.

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

Helping to make a fairer world...

MAY I, through the pages of your newspaper, thank all those who have given all their time and effort towards making Barry an official Fairtrade town?

Without their dedication and hard work none of this could have been achieved.

Barrians can be proud that the town has, at long last, joined the growing number of cities, towns and villages who are working towards making the world a fairer place.

Once again, thanks for all your hard work.

Coun Rob Curtis,
(Chairman of Barry Town Council's Fairtrade steering group).

Totting up those lost percentages

IN last week's edition of your very much appreciated newspaper, is a letter from Coun Bronwen Brooks (cabinet member for housing), which says how much affordable housing is needed throughout the Vale.

(The headline read 'Affordable housing part of long-term rural plan'.

It amazes me that in Colwinston, plans have been passed to build 64 houses.

In their wisdom, the council have let the builders build 25 per cent of affordable houses, not 35 per cent.

This means that instead of 22 affordable houses, they will build only 16.

So much for Coun Bronwen Brooks' drive for more affordable houses.

CJ Hawkins,
Colwinston.

Why this craze for tattoos?

TATTOOS? I hate them – they are spreading very fast. On TV recently, we were shown a man who has become so obsessed he has his entire body and his face covered.

I find it hard to believe that anyone could employ or live with him.

What is it that makes someone do such a thing? Words fail me.

Mrs Ivy Heveron, Rhoose.

RHOOSE CALL

ON Monday, March 16, the Vale of Glamorgan Council scrutiny committee will meet at 6pm to discuss the outcome of the library consultation.

Meet at Rhoose Social Club Saturday, March 14 at 12 noon, or meet at the council offices, Holton Road at 5.30pm on Monday.

Cliff Darlington, Rhoose.

CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

More than meets the eye!

BARRY COMPANIES THAT GO THAT 'EXTRA MILE' FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS

INNOVATIVE and forward-thinking – those are the hallmarks of companies in Palmerston.

Across the road from Waitrose store is a community of independent businesses that provide great niche services.

CEG Graphics Ltd provides graphics and designs on a host of items.

Owner Adrian Lewis explained: "Everything is made to order. We have a vehicle graphics team that does all aspects of vehicle livery from basic logos to full vinyle vehicle wraps."

It means if someone is starting a business and wants contact details and logos on fleet cars, Adrian is the man to get in touch with.

The CEG Graphics team's skills are used in a host of other ways too.

Adrian said: "We do mug printing, cap printing, full garment printing and uniforms, personalised mobile phone, laptop and iPad cases."

The team recently created a design on the clothing for a local karate club. For more information, call CEG Graphics on (01446 720665).

Next door at Palmersvale Business Centre is ***Sculpts Extreme Supplements,*** a thriving fitness business run by Barry's own 'Mr Motivator' Lee Szuchnik.

Lee is a godsend to people who have hit rock-bottom because of their excessive weight. He has a true vocation in helping people get fitter and feel better about themselves.

He explained: "Being overweight causes serious health problems such as strokes, type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure.

"We give people all the support they need to lose weight. If someone comes here and doesn't lose weight, I'm doing something wrong."

Lee supplies slimming tablets such as 'Granite' and 'Fab Abs' that help people to shift body fat and improve general health.

He said: "We give people one to one support, encourage a healthy lifestyle, devise a basic diet plan and provide guidelines for them to watch what they are eating."

Lee has a positive nature that rubs off on his clients, and you can see why he has turned people's lives around.

He has helped people whose weight has ballooned to such extremes that they have found it difficult to motivate themselves to get up from an armchair or needed walking sticks to get about.

One of his clients, Ceri, who was in his mid thirties managed to lose eight stone!

If you go to *www.sculptsextreme.co.uk/* and click on 'Testimonials' you will be able to read of other weight-loss successes.

VFM Trade Meat Superstore has been a fixture at Palmersvale Business Centre for many years and has developed a reputation for keen deals.

Owner, Simon Nash, said: "We are starting a new home delivery service. The minimum order is £30 and delivery is free. People can ring us or message us on Facebook.

"We cut and pack all our fresh meat daily in store, and it is priced at up to 50 per cent off supermarket prices.

"We've also got a large range of frozen food at very low prices."

Simon expects to be delivering not just in nearby Barry, Dinas Powys, Sully and Penarth, but to Rhoose, St Athan and Llantwit Major too.

For more information, look up VFM on Facebook.

It all goes to show that local businesses are doing their best to provide the public with the most up-to-date services!

'HUGE DISCOUNTS THIS MARCH!'

THOMPSON & SON, the local independent timber and builders' suppliers next door to Mcdonald's, has a sale on during March promising big savings.

Thomson & Son
Local Independent Timber & Builders' Suppliers
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THE LEADING LOCAL INDEPENDENT BUILDERS MERCHANT

We will continue to bring you the best quality building products and an excellent personal service – all at *the lowest prices available.*

MARCH SALE NOW ON

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Everything stocked from: Timber, Decking, Plasterboards, Blocks, Sand, Cement, Insulation, Fibreglass, Plywood, OSB, MDF, Guttering, Underground Pipe, Nails, Screws, Fixings, Joist Hangers.

TOO MANY TO LIST

Deliveries throughout the Vale same or next day on our Pick-Up Truck or our 18 Tonne HIAB Crane Vehicle.

For ALL your requirements, please call in or

Tel. 01446 737755

(We are next door to McDonalds)

A spokesman said: "There are huge discounts available – just call in store or call us for more infomation on 01446 737755.

"We are now into our 10th year of trading and have built up a fantastic reputation for competitiveness, prompt on-time deliveries, and knowledgeable friendly staff! We have over 1,500 stock items available 'off the shelf' available from any of our three warehouses in Barry."

Thompson & Son is on Cardiff Road, Barry, CF63 2BE. Also see: facebook.com/thomsonandson.

We can help Sculpt a perfect summer!

HERE at Sculpts Extreme Supplements we take pleasure in supplying all our customers and the highest quality products with the best one to one advice!

We can help you to sculpt the perfect body that you desire, ready for summer. Our range includes weight loss and weight gain! All our customers receive FREE personal advice, FREE diet plans and FREE weekly weigh ins!

So pop in store today, or give us a call to discuss the best products available to you!

Our slimming products are already regarded as among the strongest, most effective legal products to ever hit the UK market!

On average our customer, are losing between 4-8lb within the first week; look on our website at our customers fantastic results, before and after pictures, comments and testimonials!

www.sculptsextreme.co.uk.

Alternatively, have a look on our face book open page. If you type in to your search box (Sculpts Extreme Supplements) that will take you to our open page. Every Friday, our customers leave their weight loss on this page, you can see their comments and their fantastic results for yourself.

Look out for our newspaper adverts to receive a £5 reduction on all our products and packages or a free fitness DVD (RRP £14.99).

We are based at Palmerston Business centre, across the road from Waitrose, opposite VFM meat factory (old Phil Saunders). We are open Monday to Saturday, 9.30am-5.30pm.

CEG Print and Graphics can meet your needs

HERE at CEG Graphics Ltd, Barry, Cardiff & south Wales, we pride ourselves on the quality and range of our services from initial basic signs, t-shirt printing, canvas printing, specialist exterior signage, and much more.

Whether you require a car or van vinyl wrapped or custom car graphics, including carbon effect vinyl and window tinting, CEG Graphics Ltd can cater for all your needs – ensuring your company achieves maximum impact through innovative, striking, fresh ideas, customer care and craftsmanship.

While we provide solutions for all signage, printing and graphics needs – from full design to the finished sign, service and product all over Barry, Cardiff and south Wales. CEG Graphics Ltd blend expertise in design planning and insight to deliver effective, eye-catching design and accurately reflect your image – whether it be on your vehicle, car, van, offices, shop front and window displays.

Due to recent expansion and investment, we are pleased to be able to offer the following services all produced in-house: *mug printing, cap printing, full colour garment printing, personalised mobile phone, laptop and iPad cases, mousemats, children's clothing, baby bibs and much more.*

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact us on 01446 720665.

Be safe, not sorry!

VOG Fire & Security is a local security company. We offer great value security to homes and businesses in south Wales and guarantee to beat any like-for-like quotation.

Our main aim is to offer people affordable security, along with providing great service. With over 20 years of combined experience in the industry, you can be sure to receive the very best advice that will protect your home, family or business.

We also specialise in safety and protection systems for the elderly which are easy to use.

With the holiday season fast approaching, make sure that all your security measures are in place.

*For free advice, survey or quotation, call VOG Fire & Security on **01446 739586, or 07815 047318.***

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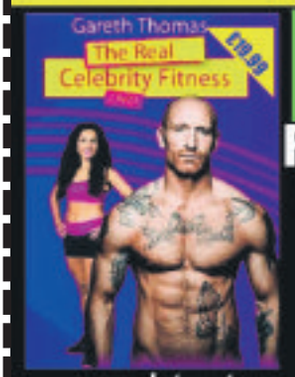

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PLUS FREE! 6X MINTY LAMB CHOPS, 4X PORK LOIN CHOPS,2 KILO POTATOES,2LB FROZEN CARROTS, 2LB FROZEN PEAS, 12 YORKSHIRE PUDDINGS.

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ONLY £30

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PLUS FREE! FROZEN CARROTS & PEAS, YORKSHIRE PUDDINGS & 2KG POTATOES

To order your Hamper call 01446 721206 or message us on Facebook (VFM Trade Meat Superstore Facebook). Offers valid until Sunday 29th March 2015 (Subject to availability)

5 Kilo Chicken Fillets

20-24 Portions

ONLY £21.99 £4.40 per kilo

Welsh Minced Beef

400g

£2 each or buy one get one free

NEW HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

CALL TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

Barry, Sully, Dinas Powys, Wenvoe, Rhoose, St Athan, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge. Minimum Order £30 – FREE DELIVERY

WIN!

a £75 XL Family Feast Hamper

Like & Share the link on our Facebook page (VFM Meats Facebook)

Winner will be announced on Facebook on Sunday 29th March 2015!

Unit 5, Palmersvale Business Centre, Palmerston Road, Barry CF63 2XA

Telephone 01446 721206

(Formerly Phillip Saunders Warehouse)

HOW TO FIND US:

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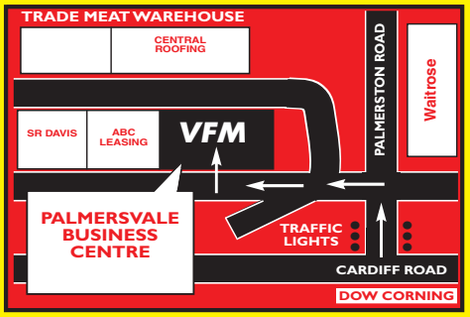
Set your sat nav to CF63 2XA

Open 7 Days. Mon-Sat 8am-5.30pm. Sun 9am-2pm



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CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

More than meets the eye!

Dinas Windows at your service

DINAS WINDOWS has been in business for 27 years, serving the Vale and surrounding area. Our name is well known in the local area as being a reliable and efficient company, with customers returning time and time again and recommending us on the way.

As a company, we always strive to do the best that we can when fitting our windows, doors and conservatories, which are all manufactured at our premises in Barry.

We are introducing new products all the time; for example, why not ask for a brochure for a new composite door, with many colours to choose from?

Dinas Windows also do repair work to windows and doors and replacement conservatories and porches.

Whatever your choice of windows, doors or conservatories, come to Dinas Windows for a free, no-obligation quotation today – and know you are dealing with a reliable local business that is the best.

We would like to thank all our customers, past and present, for supporting Dinas Windows and hope that they will continue to do so in the future.

Please call helpline 01446 749055, or 0800 0260587 (24 hours).

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Ring now on 01446 749055

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Call: 01446 739911

Email: enquiries@theBusinessCentreOnline.co.uk

www.TheBusinessCentreOnline.co.uk/GEM

CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

More than meets the eye!

Family businesses are flourishing on Industrial Estate!

THE Ty Verlon Estate is a major pillar of Barry's economy – family businesses employing dozens of local people.

The Bead Room at Boxes and Busts is run by Louise and Paul Francis who live in the town.

Louise said: "We have been here for almost 12 years. Originally, we were doing packaging and display for the jewellery trade.

"Now we believe we're the biggest supplier of beads and jewellery components in Wales. Over the years, we've developed an international customer base."

On specific days, publicised in The GEM, Louise hosts free demonstrations and taster sessions in the arts and know-how of jewellery making.

Today (Thursday, March 12), there is a 'Kumihimo' session from 1.30pm to 7pm.

Visitors are guaranteed a warm welcome and leave inspired by the amazing amount of jewellery-making items on offer!

TOP VALETING!

Just a few yards round the corner from Boxes and Busts is Lloyd's Auto Detailing run by Lloyd Baker.

Lloyd said: "I do valeting and paint correction for all types of vehicles. A valet cost between £15 and £250, depending on what a client wants done."

Across the road from Lloyds Auto Detailing is Baker's Baguettes, owned by Lloyd's mother Angela.

It is open Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 3pm and serves a great range of breakfasts, jacket potatoes, paninis, omlettes, meals and drinks.

Angela said: "We provide a service for people who work on the estate and visitors. But members of the public are welcome too. Over time we have got more and more passers-by."

Baker's Baguettes is on the left hand side on the main road into the estate, opposite Lloyd's Auto Detailing.

Dinas Windows is a family business and was started by brothers Jon and Nick Madge. In 2012, it celebrated 25 years in business.

A spokesman said: "We have quality fitting teams and fabricators. Our team all work to a high standard of workmanship to deliver customers the highest level of quality.

"As a company, we always strive to do the best we can when manufacturing and fitting our windows, doors and conservatories, which are all manufactured at our premises in Barry.

"The majority of our work comes from recommendations and we would, therefore, like to thank all our customers, past and present, for supporting Dinas Windows and hope that they will continue to do so in the future."

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MEET THE BUSINESSES...

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LOCAL SCHOOL PUPILS SHOW OFF THEIR BUSINESS ACUMEN

ENTERPRISING pupils from a Maesteg primary school are in the running next week to win a national competition to find Wales' most business-savvy students.

The Enterprise Troopers competition – part of Welsh Government's Youth Entrepreneurship programme – was first launched in 2013 to inspire entrepreneurship in primary school learners, and challenge pupils across Wales to develop their own business ideas.

Youngsters from St Mary and St Patrick's RC Primary School in Maesteg have won their way through to the final of the nationwide contest with their classroom business which made and sold Christmas crafts.

The school was among eight finalists from south east Wales who will now go head to head with schools from across Wales in a grand Enterprise Troopers final to be held at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay on March 19.

The school's success in winning through to the national final was announced at the south east Wales regional final held in Coleg Y Cymoedd, Nantgarw, where regional awards were also won by: Sully Primary (Foundation Phase), Y Bont Faen Primary and Darran Park Primary (Business Engagement) Llysfaen Primary and St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary (Most Innovative Product or Service), Trelewis Primary and Penygawsi Primary (Display Stand Award), Duffryn Primary and Ffaldau Primary (Team Spirit) Issy Sellek, Ysgol Coed-y-Gof, Barney Rind, Sully Primary and Olivia Gillard, Llysfaen Primary (Star Trooper Awards).

Minister for Economy Science and Transport, Edwina Hart AM, said: "Encouraging a culture of entrepreneurship among young people is imperative for our long-term economic success.

" I am consistently surprised and impressed by the ever increasing quality of business ideas coming from primary school children across Wales, whose imagination, creativity and insightfulness shows no bounds year on year."

St Mary's and St Patrick's pupils with the 'Enterprise Troopers'.

Two men who had the drop on gravity

THE speaker at the recent Barry Men's Forum was Mike Cheeseman, who recalled that Isaac Newton and Galileo were both credited with the discovery of gravity.

Galileo was the first as he was born a hundred years before Newton. People don't realise the effect that gravity has on their everyday lifestyle.

Simple tasks like drinking a cup of tea would not be possible without gravity. We tend to forget about gravity until walking up a steep hill, or if we drop a ball at the top of a slope.

For hundreds of years, men have envied how easily birds can overcome the effects of gravity, they just flap their wings and fly away. We have tried to emulate birds by making machines for us to escape from gravity's clutches.

Mike then gave a brief history of how aviation had developed from the first kites, to engine powered propeller driven planes, and then from the first jets to the huge present day jumbo jets.

Mike recounted the space race between Russia and America. Russia launched the first satellite in space, Sputnik 1. America sent fruit flies and monkeys into space. Russia sent the first man into space - Yuri Gagarin.

Then the next race began, to send the first man to the moon. America won that race when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin both landed on the moon.

While researching this episode, Mike noticed the huge amount of conflicting information on the moon landings.

So much so, that he promised another talk to discuss the pros and cons of the moon landing conspiracy.

The Forum next meets on Thursday, March 19, at 10.15am.

David Brushett will be speaking on the topic of 'Lest we Forget' at Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Aberystwyth Crescent.

New members are welcome.

Council staff cheque in memory of paramedic

THE Vale Council's building control has raised £1,000 for the Marie Curie Centre at Penarth, in memory of their friend and local paramedic, Adrian Cook, who died last month.

The team, along with staff from the council's planning department and Nina Estate Agents, sold raffle tickets and collected donations at the annual Building Excellence Awards in the Vale Golf Club on January 30.

Around £900 was raised on the night between the 90 guests, with the remaining £100 donated by Nina herself.

Last week, the team visited the centre in Penarth to present the cheque for £1,000.

Follow us on Twitter - find us @gem_news

Jewson apprentice Jake lands company's top learning award

Jake Barrett, on right, displays his award.

JEWSON apprentice Jake Barrett (22) has scooped the company's outstanding learner of the year award.

He is one of over 50 apprentices who completed a customer service apprenticeship programme through ACT Training.

The former Barry Comprehensive School pupil said: "I was really surprised to have won the award. It's a great achievement for me and it just proves that you can achieve whatever you put your mind to.

"I couldn't have done it without the support I received from my line manager, Lee, and the rest of my colleagues at Jewson."

WIs celebrate with a centenary service

ON March 7 the Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes held a service of thanksgiving on the centenary of the WI.

The service, held at Llandaff Cathedral was led by Reverend Gerwyn Huw Capon, Dean of Llandaff. Members from over 90 Institutes attended and their banners were proudly paraded at the beginning of the ceremony.

Guests included the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Federation of Wales Chair Mrs Ann Jones, National Public Affairs Committee Chair Mrs Marylyn Haines-Evans, Head of National Federation of Wales Office Rhian Connick, and the Chairs of Brecon, Carmarthen, Ceredigion and Gwent Federations, past Glamorgan Federation Chairmen and WI Advisors.

The lessons were read by Mrs Carolyn Davies, Glamorgan Federation chairman, Mrs Sheena Sarjeant past Federation chairman, and Mrs Ann Jones, Federation of Wales chair. In her address, Mrs Margaret Bourke, past Federation secretary talked about the history and achievements of the WI and its invaluable contribution to British life since its formation a hundred years ago.

She ended by saying that the WI was an organisation of which we could be justly proud.

JANE EXELL

QUIZ CANCELLED

THE Barry Athletic Tennis Club quiz due to be held on March 21, at Barry Athletic Bowls Club has been cancelled.

Bridgend County Borough Council

BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

The Bridgend County Borough Council Building Control Team

Roger Jones (Building Control Surveyor), Jonathon Parsons (Development & Building Control Manager), Cliff Bull (Building Control Surveyor), Beth Flower-Jones (Technical Assistant), Paul Jeremy (Building Control Surveyor), Meryl Morgan (Building Control Assistant), Paul Joseph (Principal Building Control Surveyor), David Todd-Jones (Team Leader Building Control).

THE CATEGORIES ARE:

- Best Home Extensions or Material Alterations
- Best Change of Use of a Building or Conversion
- Best Individual New Home
- Best Public Service Building
- Best Small Commercial Building
- Best LABC Supervisor of The Year
- Best Inclusive Building
- Special Planning Award

LABC CYMRU

Cymryd Rhan ar Ogwen — BRIDGEND County Borough Council

THE LABC Building Excellence Awards are about the essence of good buildings.

The winning projects are not judged just on architectural beauty, but on their technical and construction 'excellence'.

We are placing greater requirements than ever before on the building industry and, as a result, our buildings are of better quality, safer, more accessible, sustainable and energy efficient.

Creating great buildings requires teamwork involving a range of professions: architects, surveyors, engineers and builders, to name but a few.

The 'building excellence awards' reward and recognise those in the industry for consistently carrying out work to a high standard, and for creating buildings which improve the quality of life in our communities.

The awards showcase building and design teams that have developed innovative and creative solutions to complex construction and site issues.

My thanks and congratulations go to all the nominees for setting a standard of excellence to which others may aspire.

Mrs Satwant Pryce
Head of Regeneration and Development

THE 2015 BCBC BUILDING AWARDS ARE SPONSORED BY:

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Best Change of Use/Conversion & Winner of the SPECIAL PLANNING AWARD

DESCRIPTION: **BEST CHANGE OF USE/CONVERSION**
ADDRESS: **LLANGYNWYD COMMUNITY CENTRE, LLANGYNWYD**
CONTRACTOR: **LLANGYNWYD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**
ARCHITECT: **DAVID GREGSON LIMITED**

This former St Stephens Church was last used as an artist's studio. Situated in a prominent position on the square in Llangynwyd, it had been left to fall into a state of disrepair.

Llangynwyd Community Association has completely refurbished the building, whilst retaining and 'bringing back to life' many of the buildings features and charms. The investigative work of removing and restoring some of the building's original features requires a special mentio, as they could so easily have been lost.

The works themselves were carried out by local tradesmen and, where possible, all materials were sourced locally.

LLAN HALL RENOVATION LAUDED AT BUILDING AWARDS

Members of the Llangynwyd Community Association, with Bridgend County Borough Deputy Mayor, Councillor Richard Young presenting the awards.

Project Manager David Jenkins, Architect David Gregson, Cathy Sierra, Mary Jones and Margaret Thomas, from Llangynwyd Community Association.

The conversion of the former St Stephens Church to become Llangynwyd Village Hall has earned the Llangynwyd Community Association an accolade at Bridgend County Borough Council's annual LABC Building Excellence Awards.

Originally built in the 19th century as a school, the building was later used as a church up until the 1990s, when it became an artist's studio, before falling into disrepair.

After their old village hall was destroyed by a fire around the turn of the millennium, the Llangynwyd Community Association began raising funds to build a new hall and identified the former church as their ideal venue.

A decade of fundraising followed and, having successfully obtained the grants they required, the association were able to buy the building and they opened it around a year ago after many months of renovation work.

The result is a building that has become a popular asset for the local community, and the project was selected as the winner of the 'Best change of use or conversion' honour at the council's ninth annual building control awards. The project was also selected by the council as the recipient of its 'Special planning award'.

Councillor Phil White, Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "Using local tradesmen, the Llangynwyd Community Association have completely refurbished the building to a high class standard while retaining its original charm. For example, it even contains the bell that was used in the old school over a century ago. The Association must be complimented on their commitment to the project and for providing a bustling facility that can be used by current and future generations of the local community."

Project manager David Jenkins said: "We are gobsmacked to receive this award, as we thought we had only been nominated. The conversion of the building was a real community effort using local firms and it is great to see so many people using the hall."

david gregson
chartered surveyor · commercial mediator

Winners of Category 2
Best change of use or conversion

Winners
of special planning award

We would like to congratulate the entire community of Llangynwyd for all the years of hard work and commitment that has led to the opening of our wonderful village hall.

01792 474042
www.davidgregson.co.uk
50 Walter Road, Swansea, 5A1 5PW

Best Individual New Home

DESCRIPTION: **BEST INDIVIDUAL NEW HOUSE**

ADDRESS: **AZAHAR, HEOL BRYNCWILS, SARN**

CONTRACTOR: **CHRIS BEVAN BUILDERS**

ARCHITECT:
PLANABUILD LIMITED, 3 LABURNUM DRIVE, PORTHCAWL

This former 'brownfield' site was in a difficult topographical location, on the edge of the village of Sarn – which encompassed surface water/drainage problems from the outset, as well as ground compaction and fill to prevent further settlement. There were also problems with the location of the South Western Distribution electrical transformer located on the eastern side of the site, which limited the ability to excavate in this area without constant monitoring from the electric companies.

With the architects' design and re-positioning of the building from the outset, this allowed minimal excavation against the transformer and has provided a sheltered and completely private raised patio area for the owner. The detached property has been built to an extremely high standard of fitment and workmanship.

The contemporary layouts are both stylish and modern and have been designed specifically with the end user in mind, easily allowing adaption to ground floor only living, as the owner requested for their latter years.

Best LABC Supervisor of The Year

PROPOSAL: **DAVE HODGES**
CONTRACTOR: **LLANMOOR HOMES**

DAVE HODGES has been an integral part of Llanmoor Homes since he started as a site agent in 2006, and has worked on many of their successful housing projects throughout south Wales.

He is currently site manager on their large development at Gerddi Pentref, which forms part of the Parc Derwen complex in Coity, Bridgend.

The site consists of 14 different house types, of which Dave has a thorough working knowledge, consistently producing properties which achieve low figures when air tested, and SAP ratings on completion that match their intended design.

LABC CYMRU

Best Public Service Building & Best Inclusive Building

DESCRIPTION:
NEW CARE HOME

ADDRESS:
HEOL GELLI LENOR, MAESTEG, BRIDGEND

CONTRACTOR:
PENDRAGON (DESIGN AND BUILD) LIMITED

ARCHITECT:
PENTAN PARTNERSHIP

Heol Gelli Lenor is a complex developed by Valleys to Coast Housing Association for residential supported living for people with disabilities.

The building has been designed in a contemporary style that responds to the environment. Its robust construction consists of face brickwork to the external finishes that appears aesthetically strong, but also comprises areas of render and timber cladding, providing a contrast of lighter and softer materials.

The site itself follows the topography of the Nant Sychbant valley, which alone brought its own problems; with the construction being built into the hillside, the 'tanking' detail had to be installed and made available for the manufacturers to sign off. The 'permacrib' walls, as well as providing support, also gave enclosure to the site.

The development provides supported residential accommodation for people with disabilities and exceeds standards, to offer flexibility for the future.

Based on the principles of inclusive design both the external and internal environment is designed to be accessible to all residents, staff and visitors including disabled people with varying degrees of mobility and people with sensory impairments. All parts of the scheme are designed and have been built to meet the guidance of Approved Document M of the Building Regulations BS8300 and the Welsh Government Development Quality Requirements.

Internally, the building is fully wheelchair-accessible and incorporates assisted bathrooms with hoists, to allow for complete movement. Door ironmongery is ergonomically designed for the end user.

Externally, access routes by way of ramps, with changes of level defined by changes in materials, leads to an outside space with impressive views of the Nant Sychbant Valley.

The collaborative working between Building Control, Pentan Architects, Pendragon and Valleys to Coast Housing has resulted in a fully accessible building.

Best Extension or Alterations to Existing Home

DESCRIPTION:
EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS

ADDRESS:
10 SANDPIPER CLOSE, NOTTAGE, PORTHCAWL

CONTRACTOR:
MOORE CONSTRUCTION & SONS

ARCHITECT: **MARK ROBINSON**

This 1970s-style bungalow has been completely refurbished, both internally and externally, to provide a two storey, four-bedroom deluxe property, incorporating a bespoke internal living space, and with an external appearance that is functional in terms of maintenance due to the choice of finishes, while also pleasing to the eye, and in contrast to the seaside environment.

The internal open plan layout called for innovative and creative solutions in the design and build process, this involved the introduction of a steel frame to provide integrity to the structure, and an increase in the thermal efficiency of the fabric, to allow for the large percentage of glazed area.

in accordance with the design SAP calculation, the works were undertaken with precision and skill by the builder to achieve the high standard of finishes demanded by the client/architect, the result being a property of exceptional quality.

Best Small Commercial Building

DESCRIPTION:
BEST SMALL COMMERCIAL BUILDING

ADDRESS:
KNM, PLOT 9, VILLAGE FARM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PYLE,

CONTRACTOR:
IRB CONTRACTORS LIMITED

ARCHITECT:
KEW ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESIGN

The development is the result of a successful company requiring additional floorspace to expand their business. The building comprises a new steel portal framed unit with two-storey ancillary office 2 accommodation. The premises have an overall footprint of 800m and are used to manufacture PVC windows and doors, with welfare and disabled wc facilities.

The building has been constructed on vacant land and was designed to reflect the character, style and scale of the surrounding properties. The materials used were selected with due consideration to sustainability and energy efficiency, and meet the thermal requirements of Approved Document L2A. A sustainable urban drainage system providing attenuation and control of surface water run-off, has been introduced to prevent overloading of the main drainage system.

Cynnyr Bwrdeistref Sirol
Bro Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

Old comrades plan a Nile cruise reunion

THIS year, Middle East Land Forces Association arranged our final visit to the Canal Zone of Egypt where, along with thousands of other service personnel (and, I am sure, many of your readers) we served and lost many of our comrades who are now buried in the War Graves Commission Cemeteries of Fayid – Ismailia – Moascar – Tel-el-Kebir.

I have been arranging these visits since 1993 and we decided that this April (that group is now full), would be our final visit to the above cemeteries to pay our final respects.

We also decided that we would keep in touch and arrange meetings although we are now in our 70s and 80s.

So we decided that our first get-together, now that we have made our final visit (over 50 visits) to the camps and cemeteries of the Canal zone, should be for us to see the part of Egypt that we never had the chance to see during our service days.

Therefore, we are arranging a reunion on a Nile Cruise ship for one week, cruising from Luxor to Aswan and back to Luxor, seeing the sights that we heard about but never saw.

Many of your readers I am sure either served in the forces in the Canal Zone during those terrible times, or knew someone who had.

If anyone would like to join us on this reunion Nile Cruise visit they would be welcome. I have 12 places left – spouses are welcome.

I would send full details of this reunion visit and I would apply for visas etc, using the same agents we used for our Canal zone visits.

We are flying from London Heathrow on November 23 and returning on November 30.

If anyone would like full details, please contact me either by email, telephone, or by post.

Alf Avison,
Middle East Land Forces Association, PO Box 99, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 9NS, Telephone 07814 832441; email alfavison@talktalk.net.

A GEM READER TELLS OF MUM'S POIGNANT TALE OF THE ARSENAL

I HAVE been very interested in your recent series of photographs in respect of the workers at the Bridgend Arsenal and to read Mrs Cecilia Pickering's letter in last week's GEM (March 5).

Like many women wishing to participate in the war effort, my late mother, Gwyneth Rustell (nee Williams), went to work in the Arsenal as a young woman in her late teens.

After a period of time and appropriate training, she became an inspector, which meant that she was responsible for checking metal boxes of gunpowder-filled detonators before they were sealed ready for transportation from the factory to the Armed Services.

As Mrs Pickering said in her letter, it was "quite dangerous work!"

Two months after her 21st birthday in January 1943, my mother was unlucky enough to handle a box of faulty detonators which exploded causing devastating injuries to both hands and showering her upper body in splinters of shrapnel and other fragments of metal from the work bench.

Had these detonators been in perfect working condition, she would have been killed immediately; however, the explosion 'blew downwards', with the result that she lost all the fingers of her left hand, while sustaining very serious injuries to the right.

She spent the following year in a specialist burns hospital in Gloucestershire, where she underwent numerous operations to re-build her hands using muscle, tissue and skin from her legs, which was a very long and painful process.

During this time she met and befriended other young people, including some young airmen who had been very badly burned when their planes were attacked.

Through their terrible experiences, these young people bonded together, forming a tight-knit support group and she often spoke of the kindness shown to them by local people whenever they ventured out beyond the hospital grounds into the local town.

Prior to her accident, my parents had talked of marriage but my mother refused to contemplate getting married until she could be completely independent.

Eventually, in 1948 five years after her accident, she and my father married, with me arriving the following year.

I grew up with stories of the Arsenal and despite all that had happened she always spoke of her time there without a trace of bitterness. She spoke of the camaraderie between colleagues who each day faced the unimaginable stress of undertaking such dangerous work, together with the constant threat of discovery, as German bombers were actively seeking the location of the Arsenal on a daily basis.

Sadly, there were terrible accidents during its lifetime – probably far more than we shall ever know and I am sure that, for many former Arsenal workers, there must be a feeling that recognition of the work of these extraordinary people has come a little too late for many.

My mother? Well, she never let her disability get in the way of her personal progress. She became an active member of the Cowbridge Red Cross, even participating in voluntary nursing duties at two local hospitals, which she very much enjoyed.

Eventually, she became the branch Commandant (Senior Officer) and during the Red Cross centenary year she was invited to a Buckingham Place garden party.

Alongside other voluntary groups, members of Cowbridge Red Cross were among the first to respond to the Aberfan Disaster, where my mother worked for several days.

As early responders, they were assigned to work in the mortuary, where they were asked to prepare the victims, the majority of whom were children, for identification.

She never spoke of this dreadful experience, although for all who were there it left a very dark shadow in their lives.

On a happier note, she also joined Llanblethian and later Cowbridge WI, where she made many lasting friendships. She and my father were very well known in Cowbridge and for many years enjoyed a very active social life.

She was never defined by what happened to her in the Arsenal and in truth, many people were unaware of her disability as she was extremely adept at working around any problem.

Throughout her life, she had to contend with bits of shrapnel, small nuts and screws 'floating about' in her hands and arms, which often required surgical removal but she took it all in her stride with a positive mindset.

No doubt, she would have been most interested in the recent interest shown and doubtless could have put names to faces and perhaps she and Mrs Pickering even knew each other?

Mrs KATHIE EVANS, Cowbridge

Helping you to hear again in a digital age

AS we get older, many of us will start to experience problems with our hearing and it is important that you have your hearing checked if you notice it is not clear.

If your friends and family sound as if they mumble, or when you're in groups or background noise it's difficult to hear conversation, you can withdraw or switch off because it's difficult to understand, then you may have a hearing problem.

As this happens, your brain processing power slowly slows down if it's not hearing things properly and this can cause confusion as you start to misunderstand what's being said. It's important to correct your hearing levels.

At Apple Hearing and Healthcare we provide a free, no-obligation hearing assessment and demonstration of the latest hearing aids that connect to your TV, so you can hear programmes perfectly, even if the volume on the TV is turned right down.

Visit us at the Barry Eye Centre Opticians or arrange a free home visit and experience the next generation of digital hearing aids.

Call 0800 5872318 and a fully qualified hearing aid specialist with be happy to help.

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COWBRIDGE TEAM RUNNERS-UP IN ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS FINAL

Senior section winners, Bethan Thomas, Rebecca Daniels and Ryan Martin.

Intermediate section winners: Morgan James, Lowri Haskell, and Lauryn Stokes with Rotary District Governor Sandra Townsend.

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School was the venue on Friday, March 6 for the Rotary District 1150 Youth Speaks final.

It was hosted by the Rotary Club of Cowbridge and organised by president elect Paul Halstead and his fellow members of the Barry club.

Seven teams competed in the Intermediate Section (11 – 13 year olds). The team from Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pontllanfraith, whose topic was 'Man's best friend', were the winners and the team sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cowbridge from 293 (Cowbridge) Squadron ATC, whose topic was, 'Will space tourism change humanity for the better?' were District 1150 runners-up.

Judges in the intermediate section were Mr Phil McCaffrey, Mr Colin Lyons and Mrs Eileen Younghusband. Announcing the prize winners, chairman of the judges, Phil McCaffrey said that speaking in public was an important, valuable and necessary life skill. He praised the high standards set by some of the young competitors.

In the senior section (14 – 17-year-olds), eight teams competed and the team from St John's College, Cardiff, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cardiff, Llanishen were the winners; their chosen topic was 'Learning Foreign Languages is a cultural necessity'.

Runners-up were Ysgol Dyffryn Taf, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Narberth and Whitland. Their chosen topic was, 'This House believes that we should support stem-cell research'.

In line with national rules, speakers in both the intermediate and senior sections had to answer a question from the audience to show their understanding of their chosen topic.

Judges in the senior section were Mr Graeme Milnes, Mr Glyn Morris and Mr Laurie Pavelin. Speaking on behalf of the judges, Mr Milnes spoke again of the high standards set by the contestants.

Presenting the prizes, District 1150 Governor Sandra Townsend paid tribute to everyone – competitors, parents, teachers and Rotarians – who had worked so hard to make this round of the competition so successful.

Winning teams will go on to the regional final,which will be held in England on Saturday, March 21.

Macmillan appoints first Welsh Chief Executive

MACMILLAN Cancer Support has appointed its first ever Welsh Chief Executive – Porthcawl-born Lynda Thomas.

The fluent Welsh speaker is a former pupil of Ysgol Llanhari in Pontyclun and is former director of fundraising at the charity.

She started her career working in communications for charities including Action for Children and NSPCC.

he joined Macmillan in 2001 as head of media, where she developed the charity's campaigning arm and was part of the team that oversaw the development of the award-winning brand. She was promoted to board level as Director of External Affairs in 2007.

In August 2011 she became Director of Fundraising where she led the charity's 400-strong fundraising team, which has increased fundraising income by more than a third in the last three years.

In November 2014, Lynda took on the role of Macmillan's Chief Executive Officer (Interim) while a permanent CEO was recruited.

Lynda is also a trustee at the Institute of Fundraising, Women's Sport & Fitness Foundation and a director on the Fundraising Standards Board.

Susan Morris, General Manager for Macmillan in Wales, said: "I'm delighted that Lynda will be our new Chief Executive.

"She has long been a champion for Wales and is passionate about improving the lives of everyone affected by cancer. She will be a huge asset to Macmillan across the UK."

Lynda commented: "Having worked at Macmillan for almost 14 years, I know only too well the huge difference we make to the lives of people affected by cancer so I feel truly honoured to become Macmillan's new CEO.

"With the number of people affected by cancer in Wales set to reach 250,000 by 2030, we have a huge challenge ahead, but I believe Macmillan has never been better placed to deliver the support and change needed to ensure no one faces cancer alone."

LYNDA THOMAS.

Put on a funny face for Comic Relief...

A GROUP of Volkswagen retailers is calling on motorists to help support fundraising efforts for Comic Relief tomorrow (March 13).

Sinclair Volkswagen staff in Bridgend, Cardiff, Newport, Neyland, Port Talbot and Swansea are all involved in the fundraising and aim to raise as much money as they can for such a worthy cause.

At Sinclair Volkswagen, car enthusiasts are asked to drop into one of the showrooms, purchase a red nose 'funny face' sticker, write their name on it, and place it on one of the six Volkswagen up! cars.

The stickers can be purchased for £2, and for each one placed on the car, Sinclair will donate a further £1.

Students quiz Vale MP

WELSH Baccalaureate pupils from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive in Barry (above) recently quizzed Vale MP Alun Cairns on local issues, such as Barry Island re-generation, 3G sports pitches in the area, and co-educational schooling in the town.

RHYDIAN (8) BAGS WINNING ART DESIGN!

Rhydian shows off the winning design.

A BARRY schoolboy has bagged a big prize in an art competition organised by the town's Tesco store to tell customers about their Click + Collect Groceries online shopping service.

Rhydian John (aged 8) of Oakfield Primary School, won £300 for the school, plus a £25 Tesco gift card for him.

His winning artwork has been printed on 250 re-usable jute shopping bags which will be distributed free to parents and children at his school.

This week young Rhydian and classmates visited the Click + Collect unit at Tesco Barry to pick up their prize.

Varied talks and a host of award winners!

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FEBRUARY at Barry Camera Club started with a visit from Andy Beel FRPS, who had the misfortune to have to travel to us using the M4 on the same evening that Wales hosted England at rugby.

He arrived somewhat frazzled after a four-hour journey from the West Country and had to launch straight into his presentation. His talk was entitled 'Mono Prints With Andy Beel' and he showed us examples of his very high grade black-and-white work.

The content was wide-ranging encompassing the usual portraiture, landscapes, seascapes and still life work, but also some very interesting avant-garde 'high art' photography, which caused much discussion amongst the members. Despite the pressure he arrived under, Andy gave us a first class presentation and much food for thought.

On February 13, we visited the Vale Camera Club at Ystradowen for a seven-way print battle. Each club entered four colour prints and four monochrome prints. The judge was Peter Young, who gave a constructive and critical assessment of the prints and expressed his pleasure at the overall quality of the photography on show.

The winners were Gwynfa Camera Club, second place went to Bridgend Camera Club and a very good third place was gained by us at Barry Camera Club, with one of our members Barbra Archdale-Smith receiving 20 points for her mono print 'Prague Winter'.

Our next visitor was Ed Cloutman, who gave us an evening aptly entitled 'How to make a book with blurb and my way of producing a photograph. Ed started off by showing us how he compiles his photo-books using the 'Blurb' computer program. Photobooks are a very effective way of presenting a series of photographs collectively, and now that the cost is becoming quite reasonable they are proving very popular for record photography and holiday photographs.

The second part of Ed's talk was supported by a wide range of images including some interesting but unusual industrial shots taken in the Aga cookers foundry in Coalbrook, some architectural shots using the extreme wide-angle 'fisheye' lens, and examples of framing and presentation techniques.

'Eye Contact'

All in all, this was a very worthwhile and varied evening.

The final meeting of the month was, as always, our monthly competition and the guest judge on this occasion was Dave Russell, who gave measured and constructive criticism during the evening and expressed his pleasure at the overall standard of the entries, which inevitably led to the marking being very close.

Best mono print scoring 20 points was judged to be Rob Owens' 'Sky Walk'. Joint second with 19 points each were Roy Carr with 'The Ram' and Glenn Porter with 'Walking Home', and third place was jointly awarded to Brian Trego with 'Church Steps' and Roy Carr with 'Bigsweir, The Wye'.

Colour prints were equally tightly marked. First place with 20 points was awarded to Frank Cleland for his 'Family Motorbike Ride', a sight that wouldn't be seen in this country! Second place at 19 points went jointly to Roy Carr with 'Spinning In The Rain' and Rob Owens with 'Harbour At Low Tide'.

Rob featured again with 18 points and a joint third place with his 'Honda Racer', sharing it with Barbra Archdale-Smith's 'Then And Now' and Frank Cleland's 'Sur Le Plage – St Malo'.

The projected images section did, as usual, attract the largest entry. First place was won by Phil Stillman who was awarded 20 points for his 'In Search of Pollen'. Unusually, Brian Trego shared second place with himself, his 'Nantlle' and 'Away From It All' both gaining 19 points.

Third place showed how tight the marking had become with four images all being awarded 18 points: Phil Stillman featured again with his 'Arches', Ken Mayled with 'Lasting Looks', Tina Hayden with 'Jackdaw' and Pat Hollis with her 'Starfish'. Congratulations to all, particularly Tina and Pat for a well-deserved 'mention in despatches'.

Next month's programme includes a visit from Les Loosemore, a three-way battle with Rhondda and Gwynfa Camera Clubs, an evening examining panel themes, a presentation of landscapes and seascapes by Mari Owen and will conclude with the monthly competition.

Throughout 2015 we have a full programme of talks, demonstrations, photographic expeditions, competitions and inter-club battles planned. New members are particularly encouraged and will be made most welcome, with a programme being prepared especially for the new and less experienced photographers, to allow them to quickly gain more proficiency and satisfaction from their hobby.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm to 9.30pm at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry, CF62 6NX. We are a very friendly organisation and new members of all experience and skill levels are always welcome to attend with no obligation to join. Alternatively, for more information visit our website www.barrycameraclub.co.uk. **ROB NICHOLAS**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Novel talk

FORMER Stranglers frontman Hugh Cornwell will be at All Saints Church, Penarth, this Friday (March13) at 7.30pm to discuss his latest novel Arnold Drive.

Tickets available from Griffin Books at £5, including a glass of wine and discount on the book – call 02920 706455 for details. Doors open 7pm.

Everest talk

PENARTH Local History Society will hear a talk entitled 'Extreme Everest' by Ron Powell at 7.30pm today (March 12) at all Saints' Church lesser hall, Penarth. New members welcome. For further details, contact Brian Fisher on 02920 514500, or Michael Gandy on 02920 700211.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery this Saturday (March 14) from 10am to 12 noon at Barry Citizens' Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street. No appointment necessary.

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Diamond wedding celebration for Jim and Brenda

ABOVE: Jim and Brenda Wilson (centre) with family and friends who were keen to offer their best wishes to mark the couple's diamond wedding anniversary.

Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

RESULTS for Friday, February 23:

Division 1: Allsorts (H Burlington 29) 274, Family and Friends (J Jones, R Commins, C Matthews 26) 266; Coppers (S Davies 33) 333, Family Affair (S Wilson 34) 353; S V Gals (E Phillips, C Gaffney 30) 290, Pila Palas (D O'Sullivan, M Jones 28) 291; Colcot Ladies (M Snelling 31) 244, Bakers Dozen (J Mullins 31) 269; Red Admirals (G Williams 28) 216, Cigar Ladies (J Wood 25) 255; Special Angels (A Connell, T Jones 24) 228, Space Finders (K Jackson 28) 270.

Division 2: Strikers (L Goodwin 28) 240, Rhoose Starlights (C Bryan 24) 205; Roller Coasters (L Thomas 21) 184, Witchill Weebies (K Hill 21) 207; Witchill Widows (L Sullivan 34) 324, SV Lights (B Kenefick 33) 272; Divas (A Bird 23) 227, After Eights (M Hellyar 28) 233; Vixens (K Thomas 30) 271, Breakaways (J Watkins 29) 267; Bobby's Girls (S Sugden 28) 263, Cad Con Fillies (V Heard 28) 266; Clickies (K Watts, M Thomas 28) 275, Castle Bandits (C Kerslake 34 272.

Division 3: Rhoose Ravers (C Bagnell 29) 260, Friends and Neighbours (E Western 32) 243; Jolly Dollies (C Thomas 27) 170, Persuaders (J Neil 28) 193; Airways Angels (M Carpenter 25) 214, Dolly Mixtures (C Abbott 26) 218; Westenders (M Davies 30) 282, Hill Billies (G Moorcraft 32) 267; Rugby Triers (S Watts, M Wilson, V Cawley 23) 232, Merry Makers (R Collins, A Pope 23) 209; SV Ladies (F Butler 30) 269, Etcetera (C Mackintosh, M Grasby 34) 324; Witchill Wanderers (C Raynolds 33) 304, Lil's Devils (S Vidlar 32) 326.

Division 4: Twilights (A Campbell 27) 177, Fallen Angels (T Lawrence 27) 229; Rebels (L Saunders, C Carter, D Bull 23) 211, BFFs (C Rees, A Finn 24) 232; Challengers (J Huxter 25) 234, La Belles (J Cordy 28) 257; Railway Rogues (L Whitlock 28) 235, Wyndham Witches (P Cannon 27) 204.

Division 5: Smurfs (R Emmott 28) 179, Socialites (J Fumis, D Marks 24) 236; Liberals (K Palmer 29) 239, Optimists (Bond 25) 228.

LLANTWIT UNDER-10s IN A FINE VICTORY

AFTER a hard defeat last week to St Peters, Llantwit Major under-10s were back on their home ground, trying to shake off the loss.

Old Penarthians were welcomed to Llantwit on a very miserable morning to play four 10 minute quarters.

Llantwit started the game with very strongly, with some great running from Sam A, Sam H and Dylan M, all three of whom scored in the first quarter.

Old Pens were strong and disciplined, and it took Llantwit some great passages of play to break through the defensive line.

Llantwit's defence was determined not to let anything past them, and they worked hard to keep the Old Pens out.

It was Llantwit who got the upper hand again in the second quarter, with four more tries coming before half time from Iwan, Rhys D, Rhys G and Sam A.

At the start of the third quarter the Old Pens came out fighting, determined to get a score on the board, and putting constant pressure on Llantwit's defence. Eventually they opened up a small gap, enough for a fantastic run from one of their players to score their first try of the match. With their heads up, the Old Pens were after another score, and with some determined tackles and strong running they were able to break through Llantwits line for a second time.

The Old Pens were attacking hard, but Llantwit lined up and managed to keep them out and create space for their own player, Tom, to break through and run for the line to score Llantwit's eighth try of the match.

The final quarter of the match, saw some great rucking from Llantwit, gaining turnover ball and then passing down their line, opening the field for one final try of the match from Sam H.

The final score was Llantwit 9, Old Penarthians 2; try scorers: Sam A (2), Sam H (2), Dylan M, Iwan, Rhys D, Rhys G and Tom. Man of the match: Corey for putting himself everywhere on the pitch.

***Squad**: Corey Lougher, Tom Roberts, Logan Pike, Sam Harry, Iwan Thomas, Owen Hill, Dylan Morgan, Caleb Beare, Rhys Greenaway, Abraham Farrell, Aneurin Price, Rhys Davies, Olly Williams, Sam Alexander, William Harrison-Watts, Josh Wakeham, Cristian Parry, Dylan Wright and, playing his debut match for Llantwit, Ollie Jenkins.*

A big thank you and well done to our newly qualified referee Lee Wood.

SR

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Don't let our village turn into a town!'

NEVER before have we written to a newspaper, nor are we politically minded; however, we do feel very strongly about the new proposals for the development of a further 350 houses north-west of Rhoose Railway line, hence this letter.

Having chosen specifically to live in Rhoose over 13 years ago, we did so because it was a small, quiet, friendly village. Sadly, planning permission has already recently been granted for350 homes to be built to the north-east of the railway line.

This will substantially add to the already over-burdened, meagre facilities available in Rhoose, not to mention the resulting increase in traffic.

We accept that most villages throughout the Vale feel the same regarding development but the enormous increase of 700, we believe, is unprecedented.

These houses do not appear generally to be falling within the category of inexpensive first-time buyer/social housing, which most of us accept is required in rural areas but not in such high numbers for Rhoose, so for whose benefit are they really being built?

Although the proposed area is not rated as being of any real conservational interest, it does, however, have a bat colony of some interest and is a green area, one of few remaining in the actual village.

Surely there are brown areas available in the Vale more suitable. The latest amendments made to the proposals are also very questionable - they may well cause flooding problems for Rhoose Point residents and will almost certainly cause traffic problems for Porthkerry Road and backing-up of traffic in surrounding roads especially at peak times.

We pray that someone, somewhere will see sense and stop this further development before it is too late to save our lovely village, turning it into a town without the necessary infrastructure to support it.

The battle to save the area north-east has already been lost – please don't let us lose this battle, too.

L P Bond, Rhoose.

The benefits of speaking Welsh

I WOULD like to say thank you to Peter Reed, who in response to my letter in The GEM, is making an attempt to 'enlighten' me on the joys of being able to speak Welsh, and why it would be of benefit to my life!

I am no Nationalist, would not be encouraged to vote for a specific political party because of the language I spoke, or would I want to be given a guarantee of a job for the same reason either.

What the writer seems to be saying is that if a Scots, English or Irish person were better qualified than a Welsh-speaking person to fill a vacancy at S4C, BBC Wales, etc, or the WAG, the Welsh-speaking applicant would get the job – even though under-qualified!

The response has an unhealthy tone about it, and the footnote added to the letter says it all.

Anne Usher, Barry.

'Four reasons why Island does not need fairground'

WE do not need a fairground in Barry Island again – and there are at least four simple reasons why:

• There is no infrastructure to support it, a lack of permanent vehicle parking for increased visitors on the Island, and the knock-on effect throughout the whole town of increased congestion.

• Increased noise and disruption for Barry Island residents.

• Proximity to a large supermarket and up to 2,000 new dwellings; placing it at the centre of a mainly residential area.

• The impact on the attractiveness of Barry Island as a tourist destination. Many people visit the Island because it offers a respite from the demands of urban living.

They want to spend time in an environment that is rejuvenating and sustaining.

Why should the short-sighted demands of a few businessmen and the lack of a long-term vision by our elected representatives destroy the potential of a small oasis of calm in an environment that has been vastly overdeveloped?

Barry Island should be free to everyone, not just those who have enough money to buy the goods and services being offered. How many Barry residents will be able to afford the high cost of temporary funfair rides?

The land the fairground stood on should be designated an open park, with small commercial enterprises and access to all.

It is time for some creative big thinking and sensitive action. We need to learn and move on from the safety of our past and develop a present and future for our children that is nurturing and enriching.

The picture of the Waterfront development shows how close it is to Barry Island. The new Island road is going to have four sets of traffic lights, giving some indication as to the amount of congestion anticipated in that area.

Glyn Pooley, Barry (artist).

(Do other GEM readers agree or disagree that Barry Island does not need a fairground?)

'Please stop the politics!'

PLEASE, Mr Cairns, stop politicking! It is the Conservatives who are responsible for the council tax increase and are determined to take us back to the 1930s.

They want the private sector (for profit) to take over public services (just look at home care, etc).

They don't care for those less well off, who can't get a job, or the disabled and disaffected (welfare sanctions, bedroom tax, etc).

A Phillips, Barry.

Who remembers Wren Wilson?

THOUSANDS of people all over the country, including many readers of your newspaper, served at the Royal Navy shore training establishment HMS Collingwood.

HMS Collingwood Association has received this request to track down a Wren, or her family, and her service history:

"*I have in my possession a long service and good conduct medal; written on the side is 42359 J M Wilson, Chief Wren HMS Collingwood. If you know of anyone who could help in my search for information, I would be very grateful.*"

We hope to return the medals to her or her family. Did you serve with Chief Wren J M Wilson, either when she was a Chief, or at any time before? Is 42359 near your Service number?

The association would like to hear from any of your readers.

Those wishing to join the association are just in time for our next reunion to be held at the Hillcrest Hotel, Widnes, on April 17–20, email hmscollingwood42@gmail.com or contact Shirley Winn on 01983 405116.

I am certain your readers will come up trumps.

Mike Crowe,
7 Heath Road, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8PG
mike.crowe1@btinternet.com.

Time to focus on plans for your dream home

EASTER is falling early this year, and that means it is almost time to make a start on improvements to the home or garden.

A long winter has given homeowners the chance to plan and daydream about what needs doing, and how to go about doing it.

This week's GEM feature offers the chance to find an expert to advise you, or a supplier who has just what you need, or a craftsman who can make your dream project a reality.

Whether it's a question of tackling some heavy work in the garden, cleaning or repairing your household appliances, or looking for a new item of furniture – there is a local supplier that is a perfect match for you!

It's amazing how some sunny days can focus the mind.

It may still be the same winter garden that looked so grim in the rain and the cold, but sunshine makes it a potential oasis again.

Suddenly, it is so much easier to imagine how things will look when that new path has been laid, or when that new water feature is on stream.

The same thing applies in the home. There is nothing like sunshine streaming in through the windows to focus the mind on how that shabby room might look with a little imagination and TLC.

There are so many local traders who can help make any project in the home or garden come to fruition – no matter how ambitious or modest it may be.

Easter is the traditional catalyst for home improvement projects, so this year you have the opportunity to make an early start.

Get planning and good luck!

Gardening expert's talk

NEXT Wednesday (March 18) following the AGM of Cowbridge Physic Garden, there will be a talk by horticulture expert Bob Brown, and members of the public are invited to attend.

A spokesman said: "Bob Brown is founder and proprietor of Cotswold Garden Flowers, in Evesham, Worcestershire. He is a superb plantsman, a stalwart of the RHS and displays an enthusiastic and encyclopaedic knowledge of plants, flowers and their care and attention.

"He is also a highly entertaining speaker and is full of such wisdoms as –-'*Perennials are the ones that grow like weeds, biannuals are the ones that die this year instead of next, and hardy annuals are the ones that never come up at all.*'"

The talk takes place at the Quentin Suite, Bear Hotel, Cowbridge at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 (available at the door). All welcome to attend.

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MAKING YOUR HOUSE A HOME

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Mr and Mrs Stradling and Ms Alexander – **1 Rectory Road, Penarth** – Partial demolition and rebuild of coach house to form residential unit.

Vale Council – **Cwrt y Vil Community Centre, Byrd Crescent, Penarth** – Part demolition and rebuild.

Mr Lewis Rees – **47 Westward Rise, Barry** – Proposed two storey extension to rear of existing domestic dwelling to replace existing ground floor extension and conservatory.

Mr and Mrs Michael Nicholas – **Sideways, 65 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – Proposed single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling.

Mr Andrew Staddon – **9 Crescent Close, Cowbridge** – Proposed two storey extension.

Associated British Ports – **ABP Port of Barry, Atlantic Way, Barry** – Proposed solar photovoltaic system with an output of 10MW including raising of ground levels.

Ms RL Parry-Roberts – **22 Hillside Close, Barry** – The erection of a timber granny annexe for an ancillary residential use.

Mr Gareth Lawrence – **Middle Stump, Beach Road, Southerndown** – Rear single storey extension.

Mr Andrew Evans – **6 Meadow View Court, Sully** – Single storey extension to front and rear with new porch. Existing double garage to be demolished and replaced with off road parking.

Mr Matthew Page – **1 Ewbank Close, Coldbrook, Barry** – Demolition of existing single storey porch and construction of two storey side extension.

Mrs Marilyn Gomaa – **31 Eagle Road, St Athan** – Ground floor WC with front storm porch.

Mr and Mrs Chris and Nicola Hicks – **Hougomont, 32 Old Port Road, Wenvoe** – Construct new porch.

Professor Paul Furlong – **The Coach House, 78 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Removal of condition and change of use to separate dwelling.

DS Properties – **North Hydraulic Pumping House, Hood Road, Barry** – The demolition and removal of the existing granite and brick machine bases from South Range, and associated reconstruction in the external public area.

Mr and Mrs I and R Hopkin – **Fern Lodge, Llanquian Road, Aberthin** – Demolition of existing conservatory and balcony/patio area on side elevation and construction of single storey side extension.

Mr Alexanda Goodson – **Barn at Pen Y Bryn, Llanmaes** – Amendment to Condition 3 of planning permission ref 2012/00941/FUL to substitute new method statement ref WWE 110510/MS/NRW.

Mr and Mrs Marsh – **8 Cae Rhedyn, Craig Penllyn** – Conversion of existing basement into habitable accommodation ref 2014/00912/FUL.

Mr Justin Williams – **28 Baron Road, Penarth** – Rear two storey extension.

Ms Deborah Loth – **15 Stanton Way, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension.

Mr Anthony Williams – **85 Lavernock Road, Penarth** – Construct new garage in garden to rear of 85 Lavernock Road and to form new crossover to allow access.

Mrs Sarah Patten – **1 The Spinney, Aberthin** – Part demolition of existing garage and construction of a single storey dining room extension and re-cladding the first floor of the existing house.

Mr and Mrs D Hughes – **17 Lakeside, Barry** – Providing a roof canopy over an existing balcony to primary elevation plus replacement windows and some alterations to front garden, hardstanding and steps.

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SOLID ROOF CREATES A CONSERVATORY TO 'LIVIN' WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Conservatories are a great way of adding a light and airy room to any home. However, depending on where the conservatory is positioned and the amount of shade outside, it can let in too much light.

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For those who don't enjoy the, all-too-common, pitter-patter of raindrops, the Livin Roof also improves sound insulation compared to polycarbonate and glass.

The inside of the roof is a plaster-boarded to keep an airy and modern 'vaulted ceiling' feel, meaning it can be finished with down-lighters or pendant lights. With the option to add glazed panels to the Livin Roof, it's even possible to keep a view of the heavens!

Who wants to build what, and where in the Vale?

Mr D Laskey/Mrs M Bland – **Land next to tennis court at Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys** – Resubmission of planning application for access to field including gate.

Mr Mark Holt – **The Old Vicarage, Wick Road, St Brides Major** – Renovation/replacement of windows in Grade II listed building.

Ground Control – **The Captain's Wife, Beach Road, Swanbridge, Penarth** – G1 – the taking-down and removal of five trunk tree.

Siteserv Recycling Litd – **Hangars A and B, Llantwit Major Road, Llandow** – Change of use of existing mixed Class B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial), B8 (Storage and Distribution) warehouses known as Hangars A and B to a waste transfer station, storage of municipal waste and ancillary offices (Sui Generis) and erection of a weighbridge and weighbridge office.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Cwm Talwg Community Centre, Plas Cleddau, Barry** – Erection of a glazed canopy to protect a safe play area and associated groundworks.

Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd – **Cardiff Airport, International Pier, Rhoose** – Removal of existing lighting tower structure supporting three antennae on pole mounts and three equipment cabinets on top of the airport building. Installation of a replacement 6m stub lattice mast tower supporting nine antennae, three replacement equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto including steel support grillage, access steps, handrailing and open grid flooring.

CTIL – O2 and Vodafone – **CTIL 124028, VF 6778 TEF N/A, Atlantic Spray Ltd, Priority Enterprise Park, Barry** – Installation of base station.

Mr Kirk Chandler – **42 Pill Street, Cogan, Penarth** – Retention of converted garage.

Mr James Oakley – **20 Heol Yr Ysgol, St Brides Major** – Two storey extension to rear of property comprising extended kitchen space and additional bedroom with en suite.

Persimmon Homes East Wales – **Ysgol Maes Dyfan, Gibbonsdown Rise, Barry** – Redevelopment of the site for 34 dwellings, car parking and any associated works.

Mr David Durham – **Dickens, 26 Forrest Road, Penarth** – Construction of two storey dwelling.

Miss Sharon Poole – **85 Port Road East, Barry** – New two bedroom detached dwelling within the curtilage of 85 Port Road, Barry.

Taylor Wimpey – **Land south of the railway line, Trem Echni, Rhoose Point, Rhoose** – Variation of Condition 11 of planning permission ref 2012/00937/FUL to allow occupation of 20 units, to connect to the public sewerage system, prior to the solution identified in the Hydraulic Modelling Assessment being completed.

Mr Tom Gent – **9 Grange Close, Wenvoe** – The demolition of the existing dwelling and associated garage with the erection of a replacement single two storey dwelling.

Mrs Chris Suvorov – **2 Mill Close, Dinas Powys** – External material alterations.

Waterstone Homes – **Ardwyn, Pen y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – Construction of 18 dwellings and associated works.

Tesco Stores Ltd – **Tesco, Culverhouse Cross** – Installation of dry cleaning, key cutting, shoe and watch repairs pod to Class 1 retail premises (resited to that approved under planning reference 2013/01193/FUL.

Mr Tim Griffin – **18 Darren Close, Cowbridge** – Two storey extension to front of property adding extra room to existing fourth small bedroom and patio beneath.

Mr Alun Efstathiou – **12 Fforest Drive, Barry** – Garage conversion; to convert current garage space into living accommodation.

Mrs Susan Jones – **Westwood Cottage, Broughton Road, Wick** – Single walled stone outbuilding, no windows, single door, tiled roof, rainwater to water butts.

Mr C Lambert – **Ambleside, Pen y Lan Road, Aberthin** – First floor extensions over garage and facade remodelling.

Tesco Stores Ltd – **Tesco, Culverhouse Cross** – Proposed signage to Pod (resited to that approved under planning reference 2013/01194/ADV).

Mr Yannick Francois – **7 Borough Close, Cowbridge** – Proposed demolition of existing flat roof single storey portion of existing dwelling. Proposed two storey side extension to form kitchen/dining and utility space on the ground floor and two bedrooms, one with en-suite on the first floor. Proposed new front entrance porch.

Miss Dorothy Evans – **8 John Batchelor Way, Penarth** – Extend front balcony and replace frontage of present balcony with glass. Canopy over front door. Replace front ground floor window and widen it by 300mm.

5th Barry Sea Scout Group – **5th Barry Sea Scouts, corner of Holton Road and Everard Street, Barry** – Proposed installation of timber fencing to the top of an existing boundary wall.

Waitrose Ltd – **Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry** – Installation of new external seating, 11 bollards to the front of store and associated works.

Mrs L Williams, Mrs W Shevington, Miss N Treharne – **Pwll-y-Min Farm, Main Avenue, Peterston Super Ely** – Variation of condition 1 to renew planning permission 2008/01138/FUL for the conversion of buildings to a single residence with ancillary uses including class B1 business use and stables.

Mr and Mrs Howard Lewis – **Southfield, 11 Wick Road, Ewenny** – Alterations and side and rear extension.

Mr Andrew Derrick – **172 Jenner Road, Barry** – Two storey extension of the side of property, on to the existing driveway and extension to the rear of the property, over existing garage and kitchen. Addition of a garage at the end of the rear garden, adjoining the rear access road.

Mr and Mrs Mike Land – **31 Sully Terrace, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension.

Mrs Alison Phillips – **Fron, Wellwood Drive, Dinas Powys** – Construction of new two-storey rear elevation extension with associated internal and external works to residential property including partial attic conversion and ground works (Ref 2013/00346/FUL).

Mr Paul Brock – **32 Voss Park Drive, Llantwit Major** – Kitchen enlargement, first floor extension and double garage C/W driveway.

Persimmon Homes East Wales – **West Pond, The Waterfront, Barry** – Development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3) retail (A1), cafes and bars and restaurants (A3), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1) and D2. Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, regrading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision.

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NEW

GREENACRES, BARRY
Modern mid terraced, living room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen overlooking front, UPVC DG & GCH via combi. Parking to front. No chain. ER=C.
£117,000

NEW

JENNER ROAD, BARRY
Traditional end of terraced, through living/dining, modern kitchen - utility area, WC cloak/showeroom, 3 bed, family shower room, sea views from rear, paved driveway parking. ER=D.
£145,000

NEW

LOMBARD STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, 3 bedrooms, through living room, modern fitted kitchen, g/flr modern bathroom suite, lane access, UPVC DG - GCH via combi, no chain. ER=D.
£114,950

NEW

COOK ROAD, BARRY
Spacious modern detached, living room, kitchen/diner, sitting room (converted garage), 5 bed (ensuite) Modern fam bathroom, enclosed rear garden, ample parking to front, ER=D.
£242,000

NEW

NANT TALWG WAY, BARRY
Showhome presented, spacious detached, WC cloakroom, living room, open plan kitchen/diner, conservatory, 4 bedrooms, double garage, ER=E.
£249,950

NEW

CUDD Y COED, BARRY
Spacious modern detached, 4 bedrooms (ensuite), converted garage, living room opening to dining, kitchenbreakfast, utility, rear garden, raised deck sun terrace, viewing essential ER=D.
£257,995

NEW

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, well presented - spacious dwelling, 2 seperate reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, 1st floor replacement bathroom, UPVC DG - GCH via combination boiler, enclosed rear garden. ER=D.
£124,950

NEW

GREENACRES, BARRY
End of link terraced, modern build, 3 bedrooms. living room opening to conservatory, enclosed rear garden, parking to side. ER=D.
£137,950

NEW

SHACKLETON CLOSE, ST ATHAN
Stunning showhome presented, end of terraced, refurbished throughout, luxury fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, parking, ER=E.
£99,950

NEW PRICE

SEAPOINT, BARRY
2nd floor, one bedroom, views over the old harbour and the Knap, kitchen/breakfast area, family bathroom, economy 7 heating - UPVC DG, security door entry system
£99,950

NEW PRICE

WHITE FARM, BARRY
Spacious 4 bedroom, persimmon built detached, living room, kitchen/diner, utility room, ensuite to master, detached garage, well presented, ER=C.
£239,950

NEW PRICE

MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY
Semi detached dwelling. Living, dining & conservatory. Extended kitchen, 2 bedrooms, study & fam bathroom. Attic room with velux, off road rear parking, UPVC DG heating via combi, ER=D.
£142,500

NEW PRICE

SALISBURY ROAD, BARRY
Bay fronted mid terraced, traditional dwelling, through living/dining room, 3 bedrooms to 1st floor, 4th room to attic (full regs). Enclosed rear garden, minutes walk to Porthceri Park, ER=D.
£155,950

NEW PRICE

COLCOT ROAD, BARRY
Extended dwelling, living room, dining room to sitting area, fitted kitchen/breakfast, WC cloakroom, 4 beds & dressing/study, family bathroom, level enclosed garden, garage/drive. ER=C.
£282,500

NEW PRICE

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
End of terraced, 3 bedrooms, 2 reception room, 1st floor bathroom, offered with no chain. ER=D.
£69,950

NEW PRICE

MERTHYR STREET, BARRY
End of terraced, decorated throughout, through living room, fitted kitchen/breakfast, 3 bedrooms (ensuite) & family bathroom, hobby area with velux window, no chain.
£115,000

NEW PRICE

MOREL STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living room, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, WC cloak/shower room, off rd parking to rear, no chain. ER=D.
£80,000

NEW PRICE

QUEEN STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, hobby area to attic, 1st floor bathroom, no chain, GCH via combi (not tested) EPC=D.
£95,000

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- First Floor Bathroom
- Wooden Double Glazing
- Parking to the Rear
- Enclosed Rear Garden

£89,950

Castle Street, Maesteg

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Close to Town Centre
- Utility Room, Ground Floor W.C.
- Gas Central Heating, First Floor
- Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens
- Ideal First Time Buy

£89,950

River Street, Maesteg

- 3 Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Well Presented Loft Conversion
- Lounge/Diner, Enclosed Rear Garden, GCH, Upvc DG
- Viewing Highly Recommended

£109,995

St Marys Crescent, Garth

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Sought After Area
- 2 Reception Rooms
- GCH, Upvc DG
- Front & Rear Gardens

£119,950

St Marys Crescent, Maesteg

- 3 Bedroom Detached Property
- Impressive Views to the Rear
- Sought After Location
- GCH, Upvc DG, Front & Rear Gardens
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Viewing Recommended

£174,950

Coronation Terrace, Nantyfflon

- 3 Bed Semi Detached
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom & W.C.
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating Via Combi
- Side Garden, No Ongoing Chain

£79,995

Cwm-Du Street, Maesteg

- 3 Bed Terraced Property
- Partial Upvc Double Glazed
- GCH, Enclosed Rear Garden
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- In Need Of Modernisation,Walking Distance To Town, Ideal FTB

£69,950

Duffryn Madog, Nantyfflon

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory, Loft Conversion
- First Floor Bathroom,
- Garage Plus Parking for 2 Vehicles
- Rear Garden

£157,000

Talbot Terrace, Maesteg

- 2 Bed Mid Terraced Property
- Upvc DG, Driveway
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Ideal First Time Buy

£89,950

Garn Road, Maesteg

- 2 Bed Mid Terraced Property
- Combination Gas Boiler
- Partial Upvc
- Front And Rear Garden
- First Floor Bathroom
- Ideal FTB

£80,000

Station Street, Maesteg

- 2 Bedroom Terraced Property
- Walking Distance to Town Centre
- Kitchen/Diner
- Enclosed Rear Garden, Upvc DG
- Gas Central Heating

£89,950

Harvey Street, Maesteg

- 3 Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Kitchen/Diner, First Flr Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Ideal First Time Buy!!!

£110,000

High Street, Nantyffyllon

- A Two Bed Detached Property
- Recently Renovated
- First Floor Bathroom
- Shop Front

£89,950

Lansbury Crescent, Maesteg

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Kitchen/Diner, GCH
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Ideal First Time Buy

£82,000

DUE TO RECORD SALES

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- 2 Bedroom Semi Bungalow
- Close to Town Centre
- Driveway to the Front
- GCH, Upvc DG
- Rear Garden

£119,500

Maesteg Rd, Cwmfelin

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Kitchen/Diner
- GCH, Upvc Double Glazing
- Rear Garden
- Viewing Recommended
- NO CHAIN

£112,995

Maesteg Rd, Cwmfelin

- 4 Bedroom Mid Terraced
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Dining Room, Attic Conversion
- Upvc DG, Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Viewing Highly Recommended

£119,950

Maesteg Rd, Cwmfelin

- 4 Bed Extended Double Fronted
- Extensibly Refurbished Through-out, En-suite to Master Bedroom
- 2 Shower Rooms, 3 Reception
- Rooms, Set in approx 1/3 acre.
- Front Driveway, Rear Garage

£199,95

Mill View, Garth

- Panoramic Mountainside Views!
- 4 Bedroom Detached Elevated Bungalow, En-Suite Bathroom
- Dressing Room/Study, 4 Acres of land
- Dining Room, Front, Side and Rear Gardens, Detached Garage

£315,000

Nant Y Crynwydd, Maesteg

- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Close to Town Centre, First Flr Bathroom, GCH, Upvc DG
- Front & Rear Gardens,
- Off Road Parking
- Viewing Recommended

£109,950

Pen Y Ffordd, North Connelly

- 3 Bedroom Detached Property
- Ground Floor W.C. Kitchen/Diner
- GCH, Upvc Double Glazing,
- Off Road Parking, Garage,
- Front & Rear Gardens
- EPC = C, Viewing Recommended

£169,950

Pyle Inn Way, Pyle

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Set on Corner Plot, Upvc DG
- GCH, 2 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory, Front, Side & Rear Gardens, Garage,
- Needs Some Attention, No Chain

£85,000

Pyle Road, Pyle

- 3 Bed Semi Detached Cottage
- Partial Upvc Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating Via Combi
- 3 Reception Rms, Many Original Features, Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking No Chain

£127,950

Ffynnon Wen, North Connelly

- 3 Bed Terraced Property
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor W.C.
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Kitchen/Diner, No On-Going Chain, Ideal First Time Buy

£85,000

Cefn Cross, Cefn Cribwr

- 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating Via Combi
- Bathroom to Ground Floor
- Cloakroom, Driveway Parking for 2 cars, Large Rear Garden, EPC=E

£119,950

Commercial St, Kenfig Hill

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Property, Upvc Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating,
- Front Forecourt and Rear Garden
- Hard Standing Parking to Rear for 3 Cars, EPC = F

£114,950

Commercial St, Kenfig Hill

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Versatile Use, 2 Reception Rms
- Store Room, Rear Garden
- Garage, Ideal Investment or Business Opportunity
- Internal Viewing Recommended

£125,000

Sycamore Avenue, Pyle

3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing, GCH
- Front Garden with Driveway Parking
- Enclosed Rear Garden

£106,950

Gibbons Way, North Cornelly

- 3 Double Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Ground Floor W.C.
- First Floor Bathroom, GCH
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage, Ideal First Time Buy

£84,950

Waunbant Rd, Kenfig Hill

- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Upvc DG, GCH Via Gas Combi
- G/F Shower Room
- First Floor Bathroom, Loft Room
- Double Garage, EPC = E
- Internal Viewing Recommended

£159,950

Long Acre, North Cornelly

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Ground Floor WC, G.C.H & DG
- Conservatory
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Converted Outbuilding for Study
- Off Road Parking, EPC = E

£114,950

Heol Fach, North Cornelly

- 3 Bed Semi Detached Property
- Upvc Double Glazed, GCH
- Driveway, Front and Rear Gardens with larger than average side garden overlooking farmland

£134,950

News from 372 (Barry) Squadron Air Training Corps

Cadets' annual presentation evening

Squadron Leader Heffyn Jones presents Cadet Sam Smith with the most promising new Cadet trophy.

Mrs Rose Fido presents the Flt Lt Roy Fido trophy to Cadet of the Year, Zena Poulakis.

THE 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps; recently held its annual presentation evening to celebrate the achievements of Cadets throughout the year.

Many friends and relatives of the Cadets attended, along with Squadron Leader Hefyn Jones (MoD St Athan), Squadron Leader Dave Crandon and Flight Lieutenant John Greenow (both former Commanding Officers 372 Squadron), Mrs Rose Fido and Mrs Margaret Noble.

Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, outlined the many exciting activities, challenges and opportunities which saw Cadets travel to the Brecon Beacons, Black Mountains and the Gower; undertaking expeditions, hill walking and climbing.

The Cadets have undertaken a wide variety of sports including: hockey, netball, swimming, football, rugby, athletics and circuit training.

They have supported many charities, including the Royal Air Forces Association and the Royal British Legion, raising over £6,000 during the last 12 months.

The Cadets have experienced flying, gliding, shooting, attending camps at RAF stations, leadership courses and air shows.

They also visited the battlefields of Ypres (Belgium) and the Somme (France), Cyprus and Edinburgh.

The main trophy winners were: Cadet Zena Poulakis – Cadet of the Year; Flight Sergeant Sean Hodges– Adventure Training; Cadet Rhys Horton – Most Improved Musician; Sergeant Jake Paterson – Flt Lt Dave Crandon Challenge Shield and Cadet Sam Smith – Most Promising New Cadet.

During the evening, Squadron Leader Jones promoted Sean Hodges to Cadet Warrant Officer; Jake Paterson to Flight Sergeant, Steph Jones to Sergeant and new Corporals were Jack & Pippa Cowles, Zena Poulakis, Rhys Horton and Alex Spragg.

Yet again, the Cadets have worked hard and played hard during the last 12 months.

Whilst the Cadets experience amazing activities such as flying, gliding and shooting opportunities; they also work hard for their local community as well. I am immensely proud of all the Cadets on the squadron."

The newly promoted NCOs of 372 Squadron.

Fabulous four get their gold!

Fabulous Four get their Gold!

RECENTLY Corporal Jonathon Spragg of 372 (Barry) Squadron travelled to St James's Palace, London, to receive his Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Gold award in the presence of the Duke.

Jon had worked hard over the last two years and was determined to succeed.

The highlightwas his Gold expedition when he travelled to Snowdonia to tackle a challenging route over four days with a group of Air Cadets from other south Wales squadrons.

Jon said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the expedition, as it was something which pushed me to my limits and at times beyond.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to London and I am really proud to have received my gold award".

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 12 (school year-8) -17 years old.

The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour or call the Squadron on 01446 747734, email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information about the Air Training Corps or joining the Squadron.

JASON HORTON

Jon Spragg with his gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Gwalch Y Penwaig, Barry
2 Bedrooms - 1 En-Suite
Garage & Car Hardstand
Enclosed Rear Garden
£134,950 D68

Meadowcroft, Rhoose
Studio Apartment
Allocated Parking
Ideal 1st Buy or Buy To Let
£68,500 E42

Meadowcroft, Rhoose
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Redberth Close, Barry
2 Bedrooms
65' Rear Garden
Excellent Order Throughout
£99,950 C71

Cora Street, Barry
3 Bedrooms & 2 Receptions
Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
No Chain - Ideal FTB or BTL
£119,950 D57

Woodham Park, Barry
2 Bedrooms
Cul-De-Sac Location
Gas CH & DG
£119,950 D67

Radnor Green, Barry
3 Bedroom Semi - No Chain
Very Good Order Throughout
Garage and Generous Gardens
£129,950 E52

Brookfield Avenue, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Drive/Garage/Good Size Plot
Lounge & Kitchen/Dining Room
£154,950 D61

Ash Grove, Barry
2/3 Beds & 1/2 Receps
Refurbished Internally
Large Gardens
£159,950 E45

Broad Street, Barry
4 Bedrooms and 3 Receptions
Beautifully Presented Throughout
Ground Floor Cloaks & 1st Flr Bathroom
£167,950 C78

White Farm, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Good Size Rear Garden
1st Occupied In 2014
£185,000 B80

Bramble Avenue, Barry
4/5 Bedrooms & 2/3 Receptions
Conservatory Extension
Pleasant Position
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Coldbrook Road West, Barry
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3 Bedrooms
Garage and Gardens
Nicely Presented
£152,250 E50

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4 Bed Town House
Rural Setting with Paddock
Parking for 4 Cars
£215,000 D64

Maes Y Gwenyn, Rhoose Point
4 Double Bedrooms
2 Receps & Conservatory
Level Lawned Rear Garden
£249,950 C69

Matthew Road, Rhoose
Detached Extended Bungalow
4/5 Beds, 3 Baths, No Chain
Carport, Landscaped Gardens
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Glyn y Gog, Rhoose Point
Detached 4 Bed Home
3 Bathrooms,
Single Garage & Parking
£265,000 C71

Nyth Y Dryw, Rhoose Point
4 Double Bedrooms
4/5 Car Driveway
Immaculate Order Throughout
£299,950 C73

Llwyn Y Gog, Rhoose Point
5 Bedrooms and 3 Reception Rooms
Conservatory & Double Garage
Sea Views & Landscaped Garden
£324,950 C75

Lets!

High Street, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Central Location
Unfurnished
E49. Band C
£550 PCM

Gerddi Margaret, Barry
C78. Band C
£550 PCM

Coed-Y-Capel, Barry
Two Bedrooms
Wardrobes, Shower
E52. Band C
£625 PCM

Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose
Three Bedrooms
Shower, Garage
E50. Band D
£650 PCM

Willowbrook Gardens, St Mellons, Cardiff
Three bed
Kitchen/diner
enclosed garden
C77. Band D
£725 PCM

Boverton, Single Garage to let. Up & Over Door. No Power or Lighting. £10 per week. Minimum 6 months, paid in advance

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Anniversaries

70th Wedding Anniversary

Bill & Joyce Braund

Many Congratulations on your 70th Wedding Anniversary on 13th March 2015

All our love, Susan, Richard, Kate and Andrew xxx

GEM FAMILY NOTICES

FLETCHER

Gerald James Mordecai

Former Councillor and Mayor of Llantwit Major

Peacefully after a long illness, Gerald passed away on 3 March at The Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend with his family by his side. Much loved dad to Sue and Jason, father-in-law to John and Abby, adored grampy to Aaron, Natalie, Jonathan and Freddie. Stepdad to Vincent.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son until the funeral service on Tuesday, 17 March at 10.45am in St. Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only please – donations in lieu if desired to Cancer Research UK or Diabetes UK.

HANSARD

Brian Trevor John

Passed away peacefully, in hospital, on March 5. Dearly loved husband of Myrtle, loving father of Richard and Rachael and loving father-in-law of Mark. Devoted brother, brother-in-law and uncle.

Funeral service will be at the Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on March 19 at 12 noon, followed by interment at the Limes Graveyard. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to National Osteoporosis Society c/o Mel and Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoed, CF35 6SB.

NIXON

Dennis (Whiskers)

Of Llantwit Major, formerly of East London, South Africa.

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday February 24, aged 86.

Requiem Mass to be held at Our Lady and St. Illtyd, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major, on Thursday, 19th March at 11am. We request no black, and in lieu of flowers donations can be made to St Vincent de Paul Society.

Whiskers - We love you and your memory will remain forever in our hearts. All our love, Anthony, Kerry, Tina and all the brats.

THOMAS

Trevor Ernest

Unexpectedly, but peacefully, passed away in his 88th year on Monday, March 2, following a short illness. Trevor, of Rhodfa Felin, Barry, formerly Fonmon Road, Rhoose and Aberthaw Power Station. Dearly loved husband of 63 years to the late Wyn (Winifred) whom he missed so much. Beloved dad of Lesley and Debra. Cherished grampy to Melanie and husband Eddie, great grampy to Jacob and Imogen. Father-in-law to the late Robert Evans (Bob). Loved by so many and sadly missed by family and friends, a real gentleman in every way who always had a ready smile, kind word and touched everyone with his loving heart.

Funeral service at 2pm, Thursday March 19, at Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium, Barry, leaving home 1.30pm. All welcome to Rhodfa Felin after the service. Family flowers only please but enquiries and donations towards the family's chosen local charity can be made on the day or to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry, CF63 1EX, 01446 407962.

Now reunited with his dear wife Wyn, Trevor will be in all our hearts for evermore.

MORGAN

Noela Sophia

Passed away at Baltimore House Care Home, Barry on February 26th, Noela, formerly of the Waters Edge, the Knap, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of Jim, much loved mum of Gwyn, Gareth, and Richard and his fiance Lisa, mother-in-law of Carolyn. Adored gran of Darren, Kathryn and James, loving sister of Meirion, Ann, Esther and Rowena, loving aunt to all her nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for Noela will be held at the Tabernacle Chapel, Holton Road, Barry on Thursday, March 19th at 2pm, followed by a private family only cremation service at a later date. Donations in memory of Noela in lieu of flowers to The Alzheimer's Society, Cardiff & Vale, Oldwell Court, Ty Gwyn Road, Cardiff CF23 5DA.

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OVERY

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That I do not think of you.
"In God's garden we will meet again"

Just a prayer from the family who loved you,
Just a memory fond and true,
In our hearts you will live forever,
Because we thought the world of you.

All our love Doreen & family xxx

STUART

Catherine (Kate)

Peacefully on March 4. Dearly loved wife of Harry. Wonderful mother and grandmother. Funeral service on Friday, March 20 at St Cadoc's Roman Catholic Church, Cowbridge at 1pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.45pm.

Family flowers only, but donations to The Alzheimers Society.

WATTS

Basil William

Passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 8, surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of Rosalie (Rose), devoted father of Liza and James, loving bampy of Nathan and Maddie.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, March 18 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Y Bwthyn Newydd, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, CF31 1RQ.

OSBORNE

Elizabeth (Betty)

Nee Ashton

You left us and already so much our hearts feel so empty, until we remember and fill them with all the memories of you, so many wonderful memories, where do we begin? You sweet little spitfire and your special Osborne smile. A special person to everyone who knew you, but always OURS.

God bless, your loving husband Les, your 6 children and their spouses, your 14 grandchildren and 4 great grand children.

Betty is resting at Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cadoxton Methodist Church on Thursday, 19 March at 10.45am, followed by a private family committal service.

Family flowers only – donations if desired may be made at the service to Cancer Research Wales or Barry RNLI.

Betty requested that colourful clothing is optional to reflect her cheerful personality.

MASON

Clarice

Peacefully at her home on 9 March, Clarice of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved wife of the late Tom and loving mother to Paul, Wyndham and Wynnette. She was a much loved grandmother and great grandmother and will be sadly missed.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Friday, 20 March in Bethel Baptist Church at 10.15am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to British Heart Foundation (cheques only) c/o the Funeral Home. No black to be worn, but gentlemen to wear red rugby shirts if possible.

MOLLART

Shirley Vivienne

The family of Shirley would like to thank their wonderful friends and neighbours for their support at this sad time, also the Reverend Huw for his beautiful service and kind words of comfort and hope. ***God Bless You All.***

SQUIRES

Ronald Charles (Ron)

Peacefully on 5 March in the presence of his family at Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth. Ronald Charles (Ron), aged 75 years of Dinas Powys, previously of Bridgend. Dearly loved husband of Marilyn, a loving father of Jill, Lynne and Dawn. Father-in-law of Ian, Jane, and Carl. Cherished bampy of James, Ben, Rhys, Nia and Max. Loved brother of Reg and Pam.

Ron will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, where flowers may be sent, or if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Marie Curie Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth. Funeral service at St Peter's Church, Dinas Powis on Tuesday, March 17 at 11am, afterwards interment at St Andrews Major Cemetery.

Lesley Anne Stewart

(nee Harris)

Vi and Jon Harris and family would like to thank everyone who has shown so much sympathy and friendship on the loss of Lesley, and also for the donations sent to the Dorothy House Hospice in her memory. We have been overwhelmed.

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Licensing Act 2003)

Take notice that Tudor Garage (Ystradowen) Ltd have applied to Vale of Glamorgan Council under the Licensing Act 2003 for a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as Tudor Garage, Ystradowen, Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7SY. A brief description of the proposed licence is as follows: the supply of alcohol for off the premises & opening hours 0630 to 2000 hours Monday to Sunday. Full details of the application can be inspected online at http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/business_support/licensing_service/public_register.aspx or at the Licensing Authority at the below address in normal office hours. Other persons or responsible authorities can make written representations to Licensing Unit, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Public Protection, Civic Offices, Holton Rd, Barry CF63 4RU by the 31st March 2015. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

(Application submitted by
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Whitmore Bay Surf Lifesaving Club's achievements of 2014

THE year started with the Welsh Stillwater Championships in Swansea where a number of medals were won in a number of different races in the pool.

Over the summer we attended all the local south Wales coast club championships. The weather was generally kind and all our nippers put in every effort and came away good placing's in events such as beach flags, sprints, board rescue and run-swim-run.

We hosted our second club championships which was a very successful day for all clubs who entered with Rhoose SLSC overall winners.

The highlight of the day was the tug of war challenge which was closely fought with Whitmore Bay eventual champions.

Together with St Johns Ambulance we were honoured to receive a Royal visit from HRH Duchess of Gloucester, who officially opened our refurbished lifeguard station.

A number of children and coaches demonstrated beach training skills and were awarded with a round of applause from her HRH and entourage!

September saw a group of mums and siblings take on their first triathlon to raise funds for the club. Consisting of a swim, bike and run, all completed it with a great sense of achievement and aching legs! The money raised has bought a new rescue board.

Following the success of this we are now planning a mini triathlon for the nippers and juniors later on this year.

In October a group of five parents completed their Beach Lifeguard Award to become qualified coaches which are invaluable to keep the club running.

It was with sadness that Roger Knight passed away, who had a lifelong attachment to the club. It was decided to dedicate an annual award in his memory, to the nipper who has shown real dedication and effort in all areas for the year and the very worthy first recipient was Iestyn Neale, aged 12.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all coaches who willingly give up their free time, parents and helpers and of course all the children who show such hard work and determination to make the club so successful. We are looking forward to another great year in 2015.

JD

Quiet week for chess club

IT was one of the quieter weeks in the chess calender for the Barry Chess Club recently.

The week started with the Dyfed Congress in Fishguard. However for the first time in my memory there were no Barry players taking part.

In the league, only the Quarks had a match, away to the northerly outpost of Treorchy.

The Rhondda Spitfires were surprisingly promoted from division 4 last season and have struggled as expected this year.

After 12 games they have only 21 points. If they were to have any hope of avoiding relegation they needed to pick up 19 points from their remaining six games, while the Quarks' have won more matches than any other team but generally by a narrow margin.

Without the Quarks most reliable player, Chris Green, the Quarks could have struggled. However the team as a whole stepped up to the plate and drew the top three boards and won on the bottom two to earn a 3.5 to 1.5 victory.

This result has moved the Quarks back into the promotion spots in third place and leaves the Spitfires holding up the table.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite .com.

PHIL JONES

Barry & District mens skittle league results

DIVISION 1:

Bunker Boys (K.Hewitson 29) 272, West End Stars (D.Collard 32) 246; Cavaliers (G.Stephenson 34) 339, Colcot Boys (J.James, F.Mills 36) 346; Colcot Boys G.Mills 30) 268, Geest (T.Zahra 28) 252; Ex-Servicemen (D.Kuhnell 27) 250, Barry Park 'B'(B.Batt 29) 264; Park Rangers (T.Power 30) 269, Mighty Dockers (L.Romans 28) 255; The Hairy Lemons (S.Hughes 26) 270, Blue Monkey (D.Brown 30) 276; The Merrymen ((C.Leckie 33) 315, Barry Park 'B' (A.Martin 29) 300.

Division 2: Barry Social (B.Allen, S.Grant 23) 228, Opsties (I.Jones 27) 260; Road Runners (B.Smith 23) 232, The Royalists (J.McEwan, G.Davies 26) 257; Witchill Wizards (C.Tipton 38) 308, Willie Wombles (E.Draisey, P.Taylor 35) 350.

Division 3: C.U.D. (B.Saif 26) 245, British Rail (K.Brown, L.Jones, T.Williams 26) 260; Commanchies '2' (M.Tuck. R.Tuck 31) 299, The Rejects (P.Townsend 29) 279; West End Fliers (M.James 28) 253, Billy Whizz (M.Ingram 28) 245.

HR

Send us your sports news - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Vale Karate dominate Welsh Karate League

PENARTH Leisure Centre was the venue on February 22 for the ninth and final Welsh Karate League (WKL) tournament of the season.

Throughout nine tournaments, beginning in April 2014, Wales' top clubs and top karate athletes have been locking horns to battle for the ultimate titles of Welsh Karate League's Champions of Champions.

Vale Karate have led the way throughout, and over the course of the season have won a record 105 gold medals, 94 silver and 139 bronzes!

At the finale Vale Karate were declared champion club, courtesy of their new record score of 1,589; second were newcomers St Pat's with 614, just four points ahead of Cwmafan Bushi-Kai on 610.

Kloe Christoforato (14) was most successful individual, just ahead of Charlotte York (15) of Kansei Karate Schools.

Leah Copeland (20) was in third place overall, and the most successful adult having won eight of the nine Ladies' Kata events and three Ladies' Kumite titles.

Kloe has had a phenomenally successful season. She was individual champion in both under-14 Advanced Kata, where clubmate Josh Dwyer was second and in the under-16 Shotokan Kata, where the runner-up was Vale Karate's WUKF U12 European Kata Champion Chiara Baker.

Kloe was also a member of the winning under-14 team alongside Josh and Harrison Williams, and with her mum Heidi took the parent and child Kata title, being unbeaten all season in that event.

She visited the Champion of Champions podium for a fifth time when she earned second place overall in the under-14 Girls' Kumite, the title going to Trinity Hutchinson of WKJK based in Penarth.

In total, Vale Karate collected 14 Champion of Champions trophies as well as a further 22 second and third placed over the 39 categories.

The new season, which kicks off in May is set to be even bigger and better continuing to reinvigorate karate in Wales.

VALE KARATE'S FINAL RESULTS:

SPECIAL NEEDS KATA U-14: Champion BRADLEY JAMES; 2nd LUCAS WIDDRINGTON; 3rd CONNOR ASHILL.

SPECIAL NEEDS KATA 14+: Champ POPPY PARRITT; 2nd ASA MADSEN.

PARENT & CHILD PAIRS KATA: Champs HEIDI & KLOE, 2nd GIULIA & CHIARA, 3rd PIPPA & CHRIS.

JUNIOR PAIRS KATA: Champs VALE PANTHERS, 3rd VALE VIPERS.

JUNIOR 8-15 SHOTOKAN KATA: Champ KLOE CHRISTOFORATO, 2nd CHIARA BAKER.

UNDER-10 CHILDREN'S TEAM KUMITE Champs: (Finnian, Leigha, Rhydian).

UNDER-14 CHILDREN'S TEAM KUMITE Champs: (Josh, Kloe, Harrison).

UNDER-10 ADVANCED KATA: Champ GRIFF HUGHES, 2nd ELLA LYONS.

UNDER-10 ADVANCED BOYS' KUMITE: Champ FINNIAN O'DONOVAN.

UNDER-8 MIXED KATA: Champ GREGORY JAMES.

UNDER-12 ADVANCED KATA: Champ CHIARA BAKER.

UNDER-14 ADVANCED KATA: Champ KLOE CHRISTOFORATO, 2nd JOSH DWYER.

LADIES' KATA: Champ LEAH COPELAND.

LADIES' KUMITE: Champ AMY DAVIS, 2nd LEAH COPELAND.

UNDER-8 BOYS KUMITE: 2nd IOLO GODDARD.

UNDER-16 ALL GRADES KATA: 2nd EMMA SQUIRE, 3rd ALEXANDRA SLACK.

UNDER-16 GIRLS' KUMITE: 2nd EMMA SQUIRE.

UNDER-12 CHILDREN'S TEAM KUMITE: 2nd VALE SAMURAI, 3rd VALE WARRIOR.

UNDER-10 NOVICE BOYS' KUMITE: 2nd RHYDIAN PULLIN, 3rd SAM STACEY.

UNDER-10 GIRLS' KUMITE: 2nd LEIGHA GODDARD.

UNDER-14 ADVANCED BOYS' KUMITE: 3rd JOSH DWYER.

UNDER-14 GIRLS' KUMITE: 2nd KLOE CHRISTOFORATO.

MEN'S VETERAN KUMITE: 3rd RORY O'DONOVAN.

LEAGUE SETS DATES FOR FOOTBALL FINALS

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association Football League is holding its annual general meeting on Monday, June 15, at the Seaview Labour Club, commencing 7.15pm.

League secretary Matthew Davies also announced that it had been decided that the number of clubs affiliated to the league would not increase this year.

He said: "It is with regret that the league has decided it will not be accepting any new clubs into the senior section of the league from 2015/16. This will be monitored on a yearly basis."

The normal deadline for clubs to apply is March 30, but last-minute applications will not now be accepted.

In April, the Vale of Glamorgan Association Football League will hold the divisional finals for senior and youth leagues, as well as the Barry Cup Final. All matches will be held at Jenner Park. The schedule for the finals is as follows;

Friday, April 10 – Dockers Cup - Division 2 League Cup Final - KO 6.15pm. Sunday, April 12 – Supporters Cup – Division 1 League Cup Final - KO 2pm. Thursday, April 16 – Classic Sportswear Trophy – year-11 League Cup Final – KO 6.15pm.

Friday, April 17 – Brian Riseborough Trophy – year-7 League Cup Final – KO 6.15pm. Sunday, April 19 – Harry Gratton Trophy – year-9 League Cup Final – KO 10.15am. Sunday, April 19 – ASRS Cup – Premier Division League Cup Final – KO 2pm.

Friday, April 24 – Billy Butlin League Trophy – year-8 League Cup Final – KO 6.15pm. Sunday, April 26 – Steve Williams Trophy – year-10 League Cup Final – KO 10am. Sunday, April 26 – Barry Cup Final – KO 2pm.

Ladies team hold open evening

THE Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club is running an open evening on Thursday, March 12, at St Cyres School, Penarth for new players between 5pm-6pm.

This is an opportunity to come and meet the largest female football club in south Wales who offer football for girls from age six to senior ladies in the Vale and Cardiff areas.

The session will take place at the new indoor sports hall with club officials and players attending to answer any questions that parents or potential new players may have. Come and find out how you can get involved.

To attend the open evening, please email valegirlsfc@gmail.com or simply come along on the day.

LW

Great point-to-point seasons of Welsh racing

ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE.

A FEW weeks ago, I received a telephone call from someone wanting to buy a copy of my self-published book The Races Came Off – The Story of Point-To-Point Racing in South and West Wales, which was published in 1986.

I told him that I only had a couple of copies left because when we moved house some 15 years ago, my dear wife and daughter had dumped boxes of them on to a skip.

I told my caller that he might be able to get hold of a copy on the Internet and he said he had tried but he didn't want to pay the £70 they were going for!

Anyway, for those of you who have been enjoying my Blast From The Past series of articles here is an excerpt from the book: "In 1976 two additional point-to-points were added to the Welsh calendar. One, the Banwen Miners' was a completely new one. The other, which was the Tivyside was making a reappearance after an absence of 10 years.

"The Banwen Miners', which was held on top of a mountain at Neath in West Glamorgan, had the honour of opening the season. Conditions underfoot were terrible and it wasn't only the horses that were slipping about all over the place.

"Both open races went to invaders, with *Hiccup 11* from the Ludlow taking the ladies' race, and *Drumnasilla* from the South Hereford the men's event.

"A feature of the season was the riding of 38-year-old Ross Farr, a farmer from Aberthin, near Cowbridge.

"He surprised everyone by winning the Welsh riders' championship with 11 winners, a feat last achieved by Bill Jones many years previously.

"The first of Farr's wins came at the Tivyside, at Lydstep, where he got *Underhill* home by a neck from *Etruscan King* in the maiden race.

"It was at this meeting that Fred Mathias' young son Richard rode his first winner, on the hooded *Hampton Boy*. Marion Thomas, who had ridden in point-to-points for 29 years, made history by becoming the first lady steward at a Welsh meeting since the Second World War.

"This was at Llanybri for the Carmarthenshire, where Farr landed a double with *Underhill* in the members' race, and *East Of Eden* in the maiden event.

"June Lewis scored a most unusual win on *Boundtobe* in the ladies' race at the Gelligaer Farmers' at Lower Machen when beating *Fortcum* and *Mandryka*." (In fact, it was so unusual that my story made the front page of the now long gone and lamented The Sporting Life; and not many point-to-point stories made the front page of that esteemed paper!)

I say unusual as earlier in the day, *Boundtobe* had run in the 1.30pm race at Chepstow! Mind you, he had only got as far as the third fence when his saddle slipped and he was pulled up. It was then the quick-thinking June Lewis got him smartly into his box, dashed home to Llanwern for her riding kit, then on to Lower Machen, just in time to declare him for the ladies' race due to start at 4.15pm.

No one was more surprised to see June than her husband Roger, who had watched the Chepstow race on a portable television set, before going out to ride *Philborough* in the men's open race.

It was a great shame that *Sea Petrel*, who won the maiden race at this meeting, did not stay in Wales, for two years later she won the Grimthorpe Cup, which is the only point-to-point run over four-and-a-half miles, at the Middleton fixture and is known as the point-to-point 'Grand National'.

The members' race was the best the Gelligaer Farmers had ever staged. First past the post was Herbert Gibbons' *Vodka Cup*, who scored from two other useful horses in *Half-Holiday* and *Green Art V1*.

Later on *Vodka Cup* met *Fitz* in a hunter chase at Hereford, and at an advantage of 10lbs beat him by two lengths.

Vodka Cup was ridden by Tim Rooney, who also that season won the Clive Memorial hunter chase over the same course on Mike Bishop's *Devil's Walk*.

With *Green Art V1* in second place and *Ronaheath* in third, the race resulted in a clean sweep for Welsh horses.

Ronaheath, a nine-year-old old chestnut mare, was ridden by her owner, Derrick Llewellin. She could go a cracking gallop and during the season she scored seven times.

In a closely-fought contest for the Spillers South and West Wales Challenge Trophy she beat *Mandryka*, who also won seven races, by 27 points to 26. It was the place points that won the trophy for her.

Court Lad added another four wins to an already fine record, and in doing so bagged a course record for the Lydstep course. This came in the open race at the South Pembrokeshire,when he beat *Ronaheath* by a length, with *East Of Eden* a head away in third place, clocking five minutes 53 seconds.

The most improved horse of the season was Cyril Morgan's *Canhe*, who was by *Cantab*, a winner of the Triumph Hurdle. A hitherto wayward sort, *Canhe* in the hands of Tim Rooney won his final three starts.

The saddest moment of the season came at the Llangibby, at Howick, where the grey *Indigo Jones*, a 40-1 outsider ridden by Anthony Reid, died of heart failure after dead-heating with *Devil's Walk* in the open race.

The funniest incident occurred at south Pembrokeshire, when *Hampton Boy*, who was two fences clear in a farcical members' race, persisted in refusing to jump the last fence. But I doubt whether his rider Richard Mathias saw the funny side of it, or for that matter *Hampton Boy*'s backers.

Barry Thomas had already pulled up his mount, *Churchill Bridge,* but seeing Richard's predicament joined back in the race, reaching the last fence in time to give *Hampton Boy* a lead over it. This he did, the only snag being that he took a tumble himself, which left *Hampton Boy* home and dry.

Mandryka, who had by now earned the tag 'Welsh Wonder', landed the 30th win of his career when finishing a distance ahead of *Fortcum* at the Glamorgan at St Hilary.

One rider who missed the season was John Llewellyn who broke his thigh when a horse he was schooling ran into a telegraph pole.

You can e-mail your news/views/pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or telephone him on 02920736438.

Barry & District league results and tables

CRIB DIVISION 1

West End 7, Wyndham Cons 8; Moors Boys 5, Liberals 10; Rhoose Social 9, Cadoxton Cons 6; West End Wanderers 5, Railway 10.

League table: Liberals 163, Wyndham Cons 163, Cadoxton Cons 160, Moors Boys 154, Rhoose Social 144, West End Wanderers 144, West End 142, Railway 130.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1

Rugby Club 6, Liberals C 1; Rhoose Social A 5.5, Rhoose Social B 1.5; Rhoose Social C 1.5, Sea View B 5.5; Cambrian Flyers 3, Rhoosters 4; West End D 1, Slammers 6; LiberalsA 2.5, Allsorts 4.5; Barries Boys 5.5, Runway Club 1.5; West End C 5.5, King William XII 1.5.

League table: West End C 104, Sea View B 102, Allsorts 87.5, West End D 81.5, King William XII 81, Slammers 76.5, Barries Boys 71.5, Rugby Club 71.5, Rhoosters 68, Rhoose Social B 63, Rhoose Social A 62, Liberals A 56.5, Rhoose Social C 56.5, Runway Club 50.5, Cambrian Flyers 45.5, Liberals C 42.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1

Wyndham Cons A 4, Wyndham Cons C 1; Harbour B 5, Penarth Cons B 0; ;Harbour A 3, Savoy B 2; Cadoxton Cons Z 1, Savoy A 4; Rhoose Social B 4, Cadoxton Cons B 1; West End C 4, Rhoose Social C 1.

League table: Harbour B 85, Savoy A 81, West End C 64, Cadoxton Cons B 62, Cadoxton Cons Z 58, Rhoose Social B 52, Rhoose Social C 49, Harbour A 48, Wyndham Cons A 47, Penarth Cons B 40, Savoy B 39, Wyndham Cons C 35.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2

Railway A 4, Railway B 1; Market Street C 3, Sully Sports A 2; Penarth Cons A 3, Market Street B 2; West End B 1, Liberators 4; Services Social B 3, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Railway C 2, Penarth Cons D 3.

League table: Railway A 80, Market Street B 59, Railway B 59, Liberators 57, Penarth Cons D 56, Services Social B 55, Penarth Cons A 51, Market Street C 50, Cadoxton Cons A 50, Sully Sports A 50, West End B 41, *Railway C 37 (* = points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk or via Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

The Atoms edge out St Peters

THE weather was filthy for this game between Barry Atoms under-12s and St Peters Newport.

Firstly, a quick mention to Jamie who played for the opposition so they could field a side.

These boys and girl galvanised as a unit and those available stood up and were counted.

Jack Long tried to organise the side and looked like a captain, and from the battering rams of Owen, Rhys, Couchy, Fin and Ethan, who tried to soften them up, to the dogged determination of Iestyn, Eski, Meg, Mason, Adam and the speedsters that are Jack N, Daf, Jake and the safe hands and push of Jack L and Connor, the effort was impressive.

We started off as usual giving away the first try but we recovered and shone, showing what we are capable of.

The ball was played out from Daf to Jack, who passed to Connor, putting in Jack N who ran with all the assurance that he would not be caught. The conversion was missed but parity was restored, however St Peters scored again and didn't convert.

The second half was a back and forth affair, but a power play again showed what we could do, and Owen drove over last for the try, the conversion in front of posts kicked by Daf.

DD

Barry darts league

IN the fixtures taking place on February 27, the Poachers had a convincing 17-4 win over the Runways, with Terry Overton hitting a 180.

The Cwm Talwg had a tense 11-10 away victory over the Dockers, while the BFC Allsorts battled to a narrow 11-10 win over the Park Weasels.

The Billy Ghosts beat the Mariners 12-9 and the Wanderers had a comfortable 15-6 away win over the Hell Raisers.

In rearranged games on March 6, the Cwm Talwg moved to the top of the league with another 11-10 win over the Dockers, with John Davies hitting a 180 during the game.

The Poachers are only one point behind with a game in hand after beating the Mariners 18-3. The Park Weasels travelled to the Caddy Cons Raiders and came away with a 17-4 victory, with Jon Kemp and Simon Rowley hitting 180s on the night.

RL

Mixed results for Penarth hockey teams

PENARTH Hockey Club's 1st XI returned to familiar surroundings after two away games, but found little home comfort against the students of Bristol University, while a weakened seconds more than met their match against high-flying Llanishen & Caerphilly.

PENARTH 3 BRISTOL UNIVERSITY 'B' 3

Just three weeks ago, Penarth looked as though they may be involved in a battle to avoid relegation and remain in De Cymru & The Marches 1, but a hat-trick of wins and a draw in the last four games have all but guaranteed survival and taken some of the pressure off their remaining fixtures.

Nevertheless, having moved to fourth in the table, the Vale side obviously remains keen to cement as strong a finishing position as possible and, after leapfrogging Bristol University last weekend, knew that they couldn't afford to lose to the student side, with whom they drew 3-3 in the reverse fixture before Christmas.

After an end-to-end first encounter, the game started at a surprisingly slow tempo but, with only five minutes gone, Phil Lane intercepted a poor defensive pass and slotted home from the top of the 'D' to give Penarth the perfect start.

The home side was clearly the stronger in the opening passages of play, and really should have extended their lead before Bristol hit back on a rare foray into the Penarth 'D' and tied the game with a deflected goal that left goalkeeper Mark Harris with little chance.

Spurred by the setback, Penarth went up a gear and responded by scoring two quick goals before halftime, centre back Joseph Wells provided the catalyst, making an excellent run from deep in his own half before combining with Lane and smashing home via a hefty deflection.

With their tails up, Penarth continued to push forward, passing the ball nicely to create a couple of opportunities before Chris McCarthy finally added a third, slapping in a rebound after another nice Penarth build-up.

Two goals to the good at halftime, the Bears appeared to be cruising against a Bristol side that did not seem to be taking the game entirely seriously but, as has been the problem on more than one occasion this year, the home side started the second period sluggishly, allowing their opponents back into the game.

Penarth continued to control the game, but again failed to put the ball in the back of the net, with both the strikers and midfield guilty of some woeful finishing.

Despite the Vale side's dominance, the visitors remained a threat and increasingly caught their rivals on the break, leading to a more fraught finale than Penarth's defence would have wished for.

Despite some excellent last-gasp defending, notably from Gareth Hurman and James Davies, and a handful of very good saves from Harris, the students managed two late goals, one from another wicked deflection, to pull the game level and earn a draw that mirrored the result from the earlier fixture between the two sides.

Penarth will be disappointed to only draw a game they really should have won, but avoiding defeat kept them fourth in the division.

LLANISHEN & CAERPHILLY 'A' 5 PENARTH 'A' 0

Missing half their regular line-up owing to absences and the need to plug holes in the senior side, Penarth's 2nd XI was always going to be up against it as they travelled to Hawthorn to face off against a Llanishen & Caerphilly side that has occupied third spot in the table for much of the season.

Buoyed by the return of skipper Nick Pratt and with the contentious win over Carew having kept them in fifth place, Penarth were determined to get something out of the game in order to remain at the head of the 'division with a division' in De Cymru 2, but were left with a mountain to climb after conceding four first half goals.

With the one-sided scoreline not reflecting the pattern of play - with Matt Birch performing admirably as stand-in sweeper and Zbig Sobierierierski producing a typically solid display in the heart of the back four – Penarth refused to be bowed and took the game to their opponents after the interval.

Despite enjoying more possession in the second period, however, Penarth failed to take the few chances that came their way, and eventually conceded a fifth goal that did little to justify goalkeeper Jason Harris' efforts between the sticks.

Both teams agreed that the 5-0 result did not reflect that match as a whole and, as they had against Cardiff & Met, Penarth came away with an excellent all-round team performance having earned the respect of their rivals.

CL

Waiting for the fish to arrive!

Kev's big bass!

FEBRUARY is traditionally a poor month off the shore and there hasn't been much to report at Seaview Lads.

The social side of the club is as active as ever, though. Already the social calendar is full, leaving little time for fishing but we eagerly await the incoming spring species when we shall be awash with flounders, ray, dogs and bass.

There may still be places going on the first boat trip of the season, so if you haven't already booked – hurry! Spring boat trips can be very productive.

Until the fish arrive, perhaps these snapshots will remind us why we fish.

Results

February 1: 1st, D Whitcombe – 3.480 kilo; 2nd, P Seaton – 3.140 kilo; 3rd, P Coles – 1.87 kilo; 4th, K Salah – 1.320 kilo; 5th, S Hinder – 1.295 kilo; 6th, A Harris – 0,590 kilo.

PRECIOUS WIN FOR COWBRIDGE RFC

LAST Saturday on a beautiful spring afternoon at the Athletic field Cowbridge took on Caerau Ely in a must win game for both sides with the visitors just one point ahead in the league.

The corresponding game at Trelai Park earlier in the season resulted in a 15-0 victory for the home side, so Cowbridge were seeking revenge.

Cowbridge started brightly with a good break from full back Tom Harrison followed by a great charge by prop Ben Worral into the 22 which should have led to a try.

With the Cowbridge pack on top, a penalty in front of the posts was missed and, as is often the case, the visitors were soon in the Cowbridge 22 and after a brace of penalties spun the ball out from a lineout and touched down under the posts for a converted try.

Cowbridge were soon back on the attack and good lineout ball from flanker Rhod Walker was driven on by the pack over the try line but disallowed for offside.

However, it was not long before Cowbridge were back on the attack as a loose kick from the visitors was collected by No.10 Luc Williams and spun out to Tom Harrison, who ghosted through the Caerau Ely defence to crash over for a sublime try, with centre Tom Sterling adding the conversion.

Despite both sides running the ball at every opportunity, there was no further score in the first half. Unfortunately, the end of the half was marred by a nasty leg injury to No.8 Luke Boys and we wish him a speedy recovery; Luke was replaced by Rhys Jones. The halftime score was **Cowbridge 7, Caerau Ely 7.**

The second half started very much as the first, with both sides attempting to run but what was particularly effective was the Cowbridge kicking out of hand from scrum half Huw Lougher, full back Harrison and fly half Williams, regularly turning the visitors' defence.

This paid dividends with good lineout ball from captain Matt Wright and fellow second row Alex Lewis. It wasn't long before Cowbridge were back on the scoreboard as the ball was spun out to centre Will Williams, who jinked through the defence from 30 metres to touch down for a fine try under the posts for Sterling to convert after just five minutes of the half.

Caerau attacked from the kick off but a Cowbridge steal from a lineout in the 22 saw the pack drive up the field and again the ball reached Will Williams, who sliced through the defence to glide over for his second try with very good curling conversion from Sterling to make it 21-7 with 30 minutes left.

Despite Cowbridge's supremacy it was Caerau who scored next with a converted try after 17 minutes. Despite this setback, Cowbridge were soon on the attack and several opportunities were missed.

Caerau had a chance to level the score with 10 minutes to go but spilled the ball, and Huw Lougher's clearance gave Cowbridge the breathing space they needed, and they were pressing for a fourth bonus point try when the final whistle went. Final score **Cowbridge 21, Caerau Ely 14**

So, Cowbridge move above Caerau Ely in the league table with this much-needed win. The boys played with great spirit throughout with the pack playing their best game of the season and the backs running and kicking with confidence. There are still crucial games to come but this victory will stand the boys in good stead.

There is now a break for the final two Six Nations weekends before we travel to Llandaff North on March 28, followed by Canton at home on April 4 and Llantwit Major away on April 11.

The youth travelled to Llanharan on Saturday for the semi-final of the cup against Penallta. Penallta are one of the strongest youth teams around and apparently have not lost a game for two years!

Despite this Cowbridge battled throughout and can be proud of having given Penallta a tough game. Final score Cowbridge 3, Penallta 27.

Finally a reminder that both Welsh games in the Six Nations will be shown at the club so come on down.

RV/RK

Heavy win for the VIFC

PREDICTED to be a close encounter, VIFC proved too strong for Cogan Coronation, a side who pushed the league leaders to their limit back in September in a 4-3 VI win.

Club captain Jordan Mortimore has enjoyed a rich scoring record this season and quickly set his side up for a successful start. As designated penalty taker, Mortimore stepped up to score the first of many penalties in the match.

Within 10 minutes, Bill Laing's boys were two up as a scoring tug of war between Dean Cleave and Jordan Mortimore began. The second was Cleave's goal, beating teammate Richie Humphreys to Reece Lewis' corner cross and heading in his first of the game.

Heading into halftime, Mortimore was ahead on the scoresheet. The young striker's second was also a header, Mortimore nodding Humphreys' long ball over the advancing Cogan keeper.

After the break, another VI centreback grabbed an assist. Nicky Cox delivered a pinpoint throw right onto Cleave's head. Two goals for Mortimore, two goals for Cleave.

Sean Flynn scored the VI's fifth goal which was met with a degree of contention by Cogan, before Jordan Mortimore made it three hat-tricks in two games after collecting his own rebound and firing low into the net. Cogan's defence were struggling and minutes later it was another penalty!

With three in the bag, Mortimore handed the reigns of penalty taker to Dean Cleave, who was still one goal away from his hat-trick after seeing an earlier goal ruled out for a foul on the keeper. Cleave stepped up and sent his spotkick past the keeper's left to make it 7-0.

With one eye on goal difference, the VI's pressed forward hoping to score as many as possible, Richie Humphreys bursting through Cogan's midfield and defence to set up yet another Cleave goal, the midfielder notching his fourth and overtaking Mortimore in the scoring - for now.

The VI's top scorer, with 47 goals in all competitions this season, Mortimore stepped up to take another penalty after the forward was brought down by two players. There was no way he was letting go of the ball for this one and scored his fourth of the match and VIFC's ninth.

A huge win that keeps the leaders eight points clear of Wenvoe Arms; the current second place outfit enjoyed a 5-0 win over Knap FC on Saturday and still have three games in hand.

This weekend, it's back one of the VI's cup quests as they face last year's silverware rivals Rhoose Rovers in the Supporter's Cup semi-final.

The game is in Rhoose on Saturday, kick-off at 2pm, and is the first time the two sides have met since Rhoose claimed last year's league title in May.

Thank you to the fans who cheered us on to victory on Saturday and to our sponsors who continue to support us in three competitions - Owens Motor Services, Llandow. Higgsy Site Services, Barry. The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan.

Team: P.Lucas, R.Lewis, N.Cox, R.Humphreys, J.Robinson, J.Laing, T.Charles, D.Cleave, S.Flynn, A.Rogers, J.Mortimore. Substitutes: R.West, D.Garrison, J.Austin, C.Goodwin.

RC

Lions thank new sponsor

Park Lions under-7s would like to say a huge thank you to Watts and Morgan for sponsoring them this season and paying for their indoor training. They are a having a fabulous first season of playing and have a great team spirit which reflects in their continuous improvement.

Park Lions are currently looking for players in school years 2 and 3 to strengthen their existing squads. If you are interested in finding out more then please contact Kim on 07772 955635.

Away teams prosper in Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday, March 3 the first round matches in the Great Western Cup (GWC), a team knockout competition, took place.

The Old Post Ladies lost 1-2 to the Edmondes A, the Highwayman Inn lost 0-2 to Llanharry, the Farmers Arms lost 0-2 to the Edmondes C and the Hare and Hounds lost 0-2 to the Edmondes B.

So, in summary, not a good night for teams playing at home. This competition will conclude on May 5, when the semi-finals and final will be played at the Hare and Hounds.

Present league standings after 16 matches are: Llanharry (120 points), Edmondes B (93), Highwayman Inn (84), Edmondes A (74), Hare and Hounds (65), Farmer's Arms (59), Edmondes C (51) and Old Post Ladies (28).

On Tuesday, March 17, there is a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes B hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Old Post Ladies, the Farmers Arms hosts the Edmondes A and Llanharry hosts the Edmondes C.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

The Brynhill ladies celebrate St David!

ST David's Day was celebrated at Brynhill Golf Club by the lady members and their guests.

The ladies' captain Glynis Gould had arranged an entertaining evening of dancing, led by Margaret Codd, singing conducted by Robbie Lee accompanied by Liz Brown tinkling the ivories, with the rafters ringing with the sound of 40 female voices.

A challenging quiz was devised by the quiz masters and a beautiful Welsh cushion was donated for the raffle with Norma Phillips being the very happy winner.

The menu for the evening was in a Welsh theme with cawl and a sumptuous Welsh cheeseboard which was provided by Brynhill's resident chef David Pereira.

Robbie Lee gave a vote of thanks to the ladies captain. An enjoyable evening was had by all and closed with a resounding rendition of the Welsh national anthem.

RESULTS

On January 27, Turkey Trot – winner, Mrs Glynis Gould 4 pts.

February 3, Turkey Trot – winner, Mrs Olwen Thomas, 20 pts.

February 10, Turkey Trot – winner, Mrs Shirley Lewis, 22 pts.

February 24, meet for lunch Turkey Trot – winner, Mrs Shirley Lewis, 13 pts.

March 3, St David's Day Competition – winner, Mrs Olwen Thomas, 20 pts.

On Saturday, February 21, the Brynhill Daily Mail foursomes pairing of Mrs Glynis Gould and Mrs Margaret Codd beat the Wenvoe pairing at Brynhill - good luck both for the next round. **JK**

Bowls club hold their pre-season jaunt!

ROMILLY Bowls Club held their annual pre-season jaunt to Torquay last week where approximately 60 members and friends from other clubs including Cadoxton, Barry Athletic and BP Sully combined to play sides from Worcester, Leicestershire and Kent.

The indoor bowls arena at the Derwent Hotel was a good venue and there was some excellent competition with the Barry teams aquitting themselves well.

Organised by Des Bannister once again, the week went like clockwork and the package he arranged suited many of the tourists who danced the nights away to the entertainment provided by the hotel.

With the summer season only five weeks to opening, players are looking forward to outdoors after a long indoor season. Good luck to all Barry and Vale clubs for the forthcoming season!

Please note the charity horse racing night arranged for Saturday, March 14 has been cancelled and rearranged for Saturday, April 4.

FP

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for March 9:

1st Sue Norris & Su Summerhayes 65.26%, 2nd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 61.01%, 3rd Barbara Easterbrook & Margaret Bancroft 59.74%.

LE

On and Off The Turf with BRIAN LEE

THE South Wales and Monmouthshire point-to-point season got underway last Saturday with the Brecon & Talybont fixture at sunny Llanfrynach and one person who was there to welcome it in was Joanna Morgan, probably the most famous horsewoman in the world.

Joanna, who used to ride in Welsh point-to-points before leaving her native Wales in 1974 to work for Irish trainer Seamus McGrath, has ridden and trained winners all over the world and was the first of her sex to ride at Royal Ascot, where she saddled Roca Tumu to win the 2013 Brittannia Handicap.

Joanna, who said she really enjoyed the afternoon's racing, saw Welsh champion rider John Mathias bag a hat-trick with *Champagne Benefit* (members), *Rosies Peacock* (men's open) and *Desertmore View* (restricted).

Champagne Benefit, who is by *Beneficial*, made it three wins in a row when finishing alone after sole rival *Kerry Mganga* had been pulled-up. The prolific *Rosies Peacock* held on by a length to beat *Tiger Rag*, partnered by Richard Patrick, and Rachel Hooton's *Desertmore View,* who made all the running to clock the day's fastest time, had 12 lengths to spare over the favourite *Minellacelebration*.

Desertmore View, who is trained by Marc Barber, could be aimed at the Dunraven Bowl Novices' Hunter Chase at Chepstow on April 24.

Bridgend builder Roger Willcox had plenty to smile about. *Patricktom Boru*, which he owns in partnership with his friend Bill Corrigan, won the confined under Evan David and his *Lauberhorn*, a five times winner last season, took the ladies' open with regular pilot Anna Metekohy in the saddle.

Patricktom Boru, given a good ride by his rider, won by two lengths from *Medicinal Compound* after the odds-on *Harpsy Cord* (John Mathias), the early leader, had taken a dislike to the open ditch on both circuits.

A mistake three from home by *Chesnut Annie* didn't help her chances in the ladies' open race, and at one time, when leading four fences from the finish, it looked like *Highly Unlikely* would go on to win.

But by the time the last fence was reached, *Lauberhorn* was back in the lead and went on to score by five lengths.

Chesnut Annie's owner/trainer Beth Roberts had some consolation when taking the first division of the open maiden with her seven-year-old bay mare *Kims Quest*, who, ridden by Darragh Skelly, won by 10 lengths from the favourite *Milaneen*.

Ogmore's Nick Williams landed the second division on Chris Williams' *Fire Sale,* who came home four lengths in front of *Tunnel Vision*. *Fire Sale* is trained by former rider Dean Coleman at Amroth in Pembrokeshire.

TIM'S 14-1 WINNER

***Tanit River*, a five-year-old brown gelding trained at Aberthin by Tim Vaughan, landed the conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Warwick on Sunday.**

A 14-1 outsider, *Tanit River* won by four-and-a-half lengths from the favourite *Brave Helios* and was ridden by Alan Johns.

TUDOR REIGNS

Last Saturday, Cowbridge's James Tudor, riding *Brians Well*, won the restricted race at the Kingston Blount Racing Club Point-To-Point Steeplechase at Kingston Blount.

Brians Well, the odds-on favourite, was the only one of the eight runners to complete the course. Meanwhile, at Chepstow Racecourse, Evan Williams saddled the strongly fancied *Timesawastin* to win the novices' chase.

Timesawastin, who was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won by 12 lengths from *Quite By Chance*.

It's a busy week of action for the Barry chess teams

AFTER only having just one match last week, it was back to normal this week with each Barry Chess Club team playing.

On Monday, the Bosons were at home to the Cardiff Bishops. Both of these teams are normally in the mix for the title, but this year they are both a little off the pace, so perhaps it was no surprise that the game ended in a 2.5 to 2.5 draw.

While the Bosons remain in fourth place and the Bishops in sixth, neither of them are in danger of relegation but can have an influence in who wins the title as they both have to play the North Cardiff Woodpushers who currently sit in third place.

Also on Monday the Quarks entertained the Cardiff Crowns in a division 3 encounter. In the previous week, the Quarks had moved up the table with a 3.5 to 1.5 victory over the Rhondda Spitfires.

This time the match was even closer but with two wins, two draws and only one defeat the Quarks had a hard-earned narrow victory that has moved them up to second in the table, only very narrowly ahead of the three Cardiff teams.

With games to play against table-topping Bridgend and the other two Cardiff teams, the promotion battle is likely to go to the wire.

On Tuesday, for the second time in three weeks, we sent two teams away to north Cardiff. The Camelots took on the Woodpushers in a vital championship clash in the upstairs auditorium, while the Gambits played the youngsters in the Panthers team in the dimly-lit lounge.

With three draws and two wins, the Camelots won this interesting match to move to within a point of the Cardiff Castles. In Matthew Davies' fourth game for the Barry club, this was the first time he had failed to record a victory – still a draw wasn't a bad result either.

The Panthers had only one player who was older than a teenager, and this was a match when it was an advantage to have the black pieces.

The Panthers won all their three games with black whereas the two Jones boys, for the Gambits, could only manage draws against the members of the Govinderaj family.

However the youngsters fully deserved their 4-1 win as their ratings were at least the equal of ours. The Gambits have now dropped to seventh in the bottom division.

There is a big margin between ourselves and the clubs below us so we can only really move upwards if we start to pick up points.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards, whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Wolves too sharp for Lions

ON a bright and warm March morning, Dinas Wolves under-12s put in a very solid performance with some very good team and individual goals against Park Lions.

The team were keeping the ball moving throughout the home side, and looked to switch play from right to left as fast as they could. When the opportunity was on the fullbacks could overlap and midfield flood the box.

It was pleasing to see the lads respond in the manner they did, but late on the game lost its shape and credit to the young Park Lions' keeper who pulled off some great saves.

LS

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58 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Diesel 'S' 5-Dr In met turquoise, 55,000 miles **£4,695**
08 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr In met-blue, 61,000 miles with a/c etc **£4,695**
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Met grey with grey leather, 58,000 miles
£6,995

62 PEUGEOT 107 Active
Red, 21,000 miles, free road tax, 1 owner
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09 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3-Dr
In met lime, 52,000 miles, very nice example
£5,495

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Not a gr-eight week for local hockey team

BOTH Penarth Hockey Club sides remain on course to achieve their end-of-season aims despite going down to heavy defeats against teams above them in their respective divisions at the weekend.

WOTTON-UNDER EDGE 8 PENARTH 1

On their travels once again, Penarth were always up against it facing De Cymru & The Marches 1 league leaders Wotton-under-Edge, but weren't helped by having a bare 11 players.

The Vale side started the game with only 10 men as Chris McCarthy was late arriving and, unsurprisingly, found themselves two goals down within minutes.

Once McCarthy had arrived, however, Penarth were only briefly allowed up to full strength as Dave Stevens was caught by a Wotton striker's follow-through, causing a nasty cut to his forehead. Due to the heavy flow of blood from the gash, the veteran was forced to remain on the sidelines for the remainder of the game.

Despite the early deficit and permanently being reduced to 10 men, Penarth played some good hockey and were unfortunate not to have scored before the interval, with the Wotton keeper making some outstanding saves, notably from a Chris Baker drag flick.

The home side eventually made their extra man count, however, and added another two first half goals to double the margin by halftime.

Although clearly at a disadvantage, Penarth refused to go quietly and kept applying pressure at the Wotton end, looking for a consolation goal. Their endeavours were nearly rewarded when McCarthy was fouled in the area, leading to the award to a penalty stroke. However, Matt Lewis - in his penultimate match for the club and having never scored for the Bears – promptly missed.

Wotton added another three goals before Penarth finally managed to pull one back, with Baker driving forward and smashing a reverse stick shot into the bottom corner – much to the frustration of the Wotton 'keeper, who saw his dreams of a clean sheet dashed despite getting a touch on the ball. The home side responded by adding an eighth goal late on, however, repeating their haul from the reverse fixture earlier in the season.

Despite the loss, Penarth remain fourth in the standings as other results went their way, and will hope to consolidate their position in their remaining two matches.

PENARTH 'A' 0 WHITCHURCH 'D' 5

Although restored to something approaching full strength for the visit of the best of the four Whitchurch sides in De Cymru 2, Penarth's 2nd XI also had a fight on their hands given the gulf between the leading quartet and the rest of the teams in the division.

Locked in a three-way battle for fifth overall – and therefore top spot in the 'division within a division' – Penarth knew that their position would be strengthened by anything other than defeat, and began resolutely, with a strong defensive effort, led by Zbig Sobiersiersierski and Graeme Jones, frustrating the Whitchurch forwards for much of the first half.

The visitors eventually made a breakthrough just minutes before the interval, however, with stand-in keeper Paul Thomas unsighted as a shot came in from the left-hand side of his 'D', but the 1-0 scoreline still reflected well on a Penarth side punching above their weight.

Knowing that a quick response after the break was essential to getting a result, Penarth threw everything into going forward, with Rob Harrison and the industrious Nathan Townsend trying to keep things flowing through the midfield to the various attacking combinations provided by Dave Watkins, Matt Birch and Sam Salisbury.

Few chances emanated, however, and, with the field having opened up, Whitchurch were able to take advantage of always seeming to have a spare man in both attack and defence.

Despite the ongoing defensive efforts of James Davies, Paul Roberts and Nick Pratt, four further goals followed for the visitors, creating a five-goal margin of victory that did little justice to Penarth's labours.

Although the defeat drops the Vale side one place off their desired finishing spot, they remain level on points with fifth place and an interesting series of fixtures over the final two weeks of the season still provides a real opportunity to clinch the position.

This weekend sees the 1st XI play their last competitive fixture at Colcot Leisure Centre as they host Whitchurch 'B', while the seconds travel across town hoping to complete a Penarth double as they face Whitchurch 'F'.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporter s, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens - d_stevens81@hotmail.co .uk.

CL

Barrivale bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for March 3:

=First, Kay Dyer and Mark Roderick, 62.08 per cent; =first, Mike Close and Peter Millar, 62.08; third, Mick Green and Diana Jones, 57.50. Hilary Laurence and Vivien Liles won on handicap, while the handicap winners of the Barrivale Mixed Pairs were Lyn Matthews and Alan Jones (pictured).

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us, telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

VALE REDS PICK UP SILVERWARE

ON a very wet and windy Sunday in Skewen, the Vale Reds disability football team took part in a festival, and for the second time in three years came away with silverware from the tournament.

This time it was the A team that were too strong for the opposing teams and ended up being undefeated in the competition. The team played very well and they managed to play their own game by having a strong midfield player in Ibby Hassan, who scored in every game which gave him the player of the tournament for the Champions League section.

There were also strong performances from rest of the A team especially Kerian Anderson in goals, who pulled of some lovely saves and with the help of James Clarke and Nick Latham staying strong at the back they managed to keep the goals conceded to a minimum.

However, the goals flowed for the Vale Reds with Chloe McBratney, Lewis Overton and Adam Davies all getting on the scoresheet with a very strong and organised display.

The B team also competed and had a bit of a bad start with a loss to Claddau Warriors which was going to be their downfall at the end as all the teams in their group won two and lost one.

After looking at the goal difference the B team lost out by one goal to stop them going into the final.

Yet again there was strong performances from everyone especially Josh Hill and Josh Watkins, who had been promoted into the team, for their attitude and hard work in training.

Josh Hill scored a hat trick and one of the goals was a lovely volley into the right hand side of the goal that left the goalkeeper standing, and with the captain Mark Eveleigh commanding his team at the back, they stayed strong to win two games thanks to some good work by the goalkeeper, Liam Vanstrone.

The Vale Reds would like to thank Harp Rovers AFC for putting on such and good tournament - it was well run and all from the Vale Reds had a good day.

The Vale Reds is the longest running disability football club in the Vale and this year celebrates 10 years as a team this year; if you are interested in playing or would like to sponsor the club in any way please contact Neil Latham on 07827 334818.

NL

BARRY SECONDS ARE PIPPED BY CLWB RYGBI

BARRY 2nd XV finally returned to action following disruptions due to opposition dropping out, inclement weather and the Six Nations tournament, with their visitors Clwb Rygbi.

ABOVE and RIGHT: Barry seconds were back in action against Clwb Rygbi, and HOWARD POOLE was there to capture the action.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow handed a debut to Neil Bragg for his first game of rugby in his career. There were also recalls for Josh Flynn, Adam Lee and Kyle Case, with Tom Poole in the unfamiliar role of scrum-half.

The disruptions to the team were reflected in the early exchanges as Barry struggled to have any fluency in attack.

It was only some superb defending, led by captain Lee Jones and his back row partner John Miles, that prevented the away side from opening the scoring.

Instead, it was Barry who troubled the scorers first, as Lee intercepted a Clwb Rygbi move, before running the full length of the pitch to be stopped just short of the line.

His timely offload, however, found the supporting Rhys Knapman who touched down for the try. Lee failed to add the extras.

The visitors replied with more sustained pressure and responded with an unconverted try to level the scores and seemed to have the upper hand in open play.

Barry, however, had complete domination at scrum time and frequently disrupted the CRCC feed. This allowed the home side to retrieve possession and gain some territory, and from a quick-tap penalty, the opportunistic Joel Williams broke through to score under the posts; Williams' conversion was a formality.

Lee further increased the home lead with a well-struck penalty, and just before halftime, Dave Williams scavenged possession in his own half, outpacing the visiting defence to score in the corner. Lee failed to add the extras to make the halftime score 20-5.

The second interval, however, was a completely different story. With the elements to their advantage, and the home players visibly wilting in the sun due to lack of match fitness, CRCC piled on the pressure and scored two quick tries to bring themselves back within three points of Barry.

The green-and-whites had no answer to the away side's onslaught as tackles were missed and defensive shape broken. Another away try meant that the visitors were now in the lead, 24-20.

Barry struck back late on, as a quickly taken penalty in a rare foray into the opposition's 22 saw the ball spread to Jason Thomas, who crashed over under the posts. Lee's conversion made it 27-24.

Barry were unable to hold out in the dying minutes, however. A comedy of errors in handling a long, hopeful kick saw CRCC regain the lead, before a well-worked move ended up with another converted try to take the game beyond the hosts, the final score 38-27.

The management will hope that this game will have given some much needed match fitness to a number of players who have not donned the jersey for the past few weeks, and the 2nd XV will have to be at their best for their next encounter on Tuesday, March 24, kick-off 7pm at Cardiff Arms Park, with Rhiwbina their next visitors in the league four days after.

Team: Lee; Knapman, D Williams, Evans, Bragg; J Williams, Poole; Thomas, Turnbull, Corne; Flynn, Dutton; Jones ©, Miles, Rolfe. Replacements: Ring, Westall, Case, Evans, Provis. Man of the match: Bragg. **KC**

Last minute heartbreak for Sully Sports

Sully Sports lost 27-28 against Ferndale, in a tight match in the sunshine.

From the kick off this game was set to be entertaining after the sides' last game turned out to be a close encounter.

Sports showed good interlinking with the backs and forwards, completely different to last week's game. Jody Velda and Mike Angove led from the front with some storming runs, leading to a try.

Both sides had to dig deep in defence with no quarter given, and strong tackles from Adam Wheeler and Scott Mills ensured Ferndale had to work hard for their tries.

Jake Williams kept everyone on the toes and ensured Sports kept edging forward, finished off with Sports driving the scrum over from five meters and Harry Moyle getting on the scoreboard.

With the sun beating down the second half started much as the first, both sides trying everything to gain a score.

All players stepped up to the mark and started doing what they do best, putting pressure on the opposition and it showed with a well worked try for Lee Walters, after some great interlinking between all players.

However, not to be outdone, Ferndale soon mounted a few attacks of their own and put points on the board, but Sports soon replied with what was the last phase of play Alex Szuchnik crashing over.

On the conversion the referee said there was two minutes left, so Sports gathered the restart and cleared their lines.

However Ferndale showed why they have come so far this season by throwing everything at Sports and with time up, they stole the ball and manage to score under the posts, and with the conversion made the final score 27-28.

Another losing bonus point keeps Sports firmly in third, with the next league game being away to league leaders Llandridnod Wells on April 4 - it's hoped a coach will be arranged.

Sports continue to grow and training is going well, working on new ideas and playing structures, which take time to embed. Anyone looking to join a new club should come along to training or contact the club, all standards welcome.

Team: Jody Velda, Jamie Griffith, Sam Bowditch, Dan Stillman, Ben Such, Gareth Foxall, Alex Szuchnik, Mike Angove, Curtis Miller, John Thomas, Harry Moyle, Barrie Phillips, Dai Harris, Jake Williams, Adam Wheeler, Scott Mills, Lee Walters, Matt Phillips, Rhys Manford, Scott Williams.

GI

Sully bridge results

RESULTS for Monday March 2:

North/South - 1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 74.20; 2nd Pam Sherman/Pat Verdon 59.62; 3rd Gareth Stone/Brian Gardner 59.29. East/West - 1st John Pikoulis/Anne Johns 69.07; 2nd Anne Macdougal/Anne Hilary Jones 58.81; 3rd Jane Brook/ Bunty Wiseman 58.49.

Results for Wednesday, March 4: North/South - 1st Diane Coates/Kathy Coates 63.89; 2nd Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 62.33; 3rd Anne Johns/Bunty Wiseman 58.68. East/West - 1st Joy Secular/Joan Andrews 65.04; 2nd Hazel Craig/Peter Craig 59.66; 3rd Moira Currie/Hilary Lawrence 57.33.

Sully Bridge Club are now attracting over 130 players a week during their three sessions on a Monday, Wednesday and Saturday - the sessions are very social and competitive played by a mature group.

EK

WALES POISED TO BURST GREEN BUBBLE

...and as that Irish comic genius Frank Carson might have said:

'It's going to be a craic-er!'

BIG MATCH PREVIEW
by Don John

THERE is something extra special about a Wales v Ireland clash that never fails to quicken the blood of players and supporters alike – long accustomed to seeing sparks fly when the two Celtic cousins put aside their usual close camaraderie for 80 minutes of mayhem – with some memorable 'tear-ups' over the years!

It all began on January 28, 1882 at Lansdowne Road, Dublin. Wales won that Home Nations opener and the next two, but the Irish soon found their feet and the now familiar pattern of close-fought contests and narrow outcomes emerged, with little to choose between the sides up to the 1970s 'golden era', when Wales won five on the trot.

In the '80s, it again levelled out, but in the '90s the pendulum swung the Irishmen's way. Incredibly, they have now won 16 out of the 23 games between the two since 1995 (including a record 54-10 victory in 2002).

Wales have triumphed on only seven occasions – which would not seem to augur well as the fancied Irish descend on an expectant Millennium Stadium this Saturday, in search of a rare Grand Slam.

However, bare statistics hardly convey the true picture of intense, evenly-contested games that more often than not could have swung either way.

To put this in context, overall Wales have won 65 of the 120 fixtures to Ireland's 49, with six matches drawn; and have amassed 1,401 points compared to Ireland's 1,304 total.

Moreover, while the Six Nations favourites have tasted success in Cardiff with 19 wins (just as the Dragon has done even more dramatically in Dublin, with 27 wins to Ireland's 28), they certainly cannot afford to be over-confident, with Wales having won 35 of the 56 match-ups on home soil and scoring 735 points to Ireland's 537.

So the stage is set for yet another epic showdown between proud Celtic rivals that has all the fascinating ingredients in place for what could well turn out to be the game of the championship.

After a lacklustre Welsh team lost to England and struggled against a rebuilding Scotland side that has since fallen to Italy, the high-flying Irish, having disposed of Italy, France and then England (in what some media pundits had prematurely billed as the Six Nations title decider), could have been forgiven for thinking the path was almost clear to their third Grand Slam.

If so, the emphatic Welsh victory in Paris will have changed their thinking and they now know they are facing a suddenly re-awakened Red Dragon, who will represent a decidedly more formidable (and familiar) proposition.

Indeed, the Irish camp have already acknowledged that this will be their toughest test to overcome in pursuit of the Six Nations title.

They will be buoyed by recent victories over Wales that include last year's 26-3 mauling at the Aviva stadium and the 30-22 win in Cardiff in 2013, as well as their cliff-edge win in 2009 at the Millennium Stadium.

It saw them achieve only their second Grand Slam in 67 years, when Stephen Jones' last gasp penalty attempt from halfway fell-agonisingly short of the crosssbar (fittingly, sitting in the crowd that day was Ireland's legendary Dr Jack Kyle, star of the 1948 triumph, who sadly has since passed on).

However, there are growing signs that a Welsh fuse which is notoriously slow to burn, is poised to burst into flame in this penultimate match of the Six Nations, and stake Wales' own claim to the championship title.

The players were given a vote of confidence on Tuesday, when head coach Warren Gatland, who had not hesitated to make four changes in Paris to the team that won in Scotland, this time announced an unchanged line-up against Ireland.

It will be captained for a record 34th time by Sam Warburton.

Gatland said that the team had been disappointing against England in the first match of the tournament and changes had had to be made.

Two tough away matches had seen a step up in performance, but he admitted that far more would be required against the confident men in green.

"*They are the form team in Europe and we know it's going to be a huge battle,*" he admitted.

The Welsh camp is fully aware that Ireland's strategic kicking game revolves around their in-form halfbacks – in particular, the talismanic Jonny Sexton, now declared fit after nursing a hamstring injury. How Wales deal with this twin threat will be the key factor.

Last weekend, the Welsh regions gave a timely, if unexpected, lift to national team morale by defeating all four Irish provinces for the first time in the Pro12.

Their success may be a happy omen and come Saturday evening, Warren Gatland's Wales could well be celebrating a full house – *in more ways than one!*

WALES TEAM

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon); George North (Northampton Saints), Jonathan Davies (ASM Clermont Auvergne), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), Liam Williams (Scarlets); Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Webb (Ospreys); Gethin Jenkins (Blues), Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Blues, capt), Taulupe Faletau (Dragons). REPLACEMENTS: Richard Hibbard (Gloucester), Rob Evans (Scarlets), Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Scott Williams (Scarlets).

Tight derby encounter sees Barry RFC maintain their promotion push

ON a bright but breezy Saturday, Barry entertained local rivals Llantwit Major in a league fixture which pitted the sides lying second and third in the table respectively against each other.

Although the 27-7 final score in Barry's favour would seem to be a comfortable win, it was far from that, and in reality could have gone either way as both sides had to defend for long periods throughout the game.

It could not have started better for the home side as from the kick off they were camped near the line and were unlucky not to be awarded a try, the referee being unsighted.

However from a resultant penalty, Scott gave Barry the lead. A counter-attack from the restart saw Scott chip ahead with White regaining the ball to find Perry on hand to cross, with Scott adding the extras.

A 10-0 lead after seven minutes – the crowd were perhaps expecting a comfortable win. However such was the endeavour of both sides, coupled with handling errors and difficult lineout conditions, that it would be another 50 minutes before the next point was scored.

The bulkier Llantwit pack were asking questions of the Barry eight as they pressed to reduce the deficit. One such drive took them some 50 metres toward the line but good defensive work saved the day and the danger was cleared.

The home pack were getting near parity at scrum time, and a take against the head was to give Barry the chance to increase the lead from a Llantwit infringement. From a difficult position, and with the breeze stronger, Scott was unsuccessful.

The visitors always looked dangerous from loose play, with the scrum half orchestrating events and keeping Barry on their toes.

For all their advantage in terms of possession and territory allied to effective defence, Barry had been unable to add to their early score, and as half-time came, the visitors would have been well pleased to only be 10 points adrift, with the wind and slope in their favour to come in the second half.

Action from a tight encounter at the Reservoir Field as Barry RFC beat Llantwit Major RFC. PICTURE BY HOWARD POOLE.

Deciding that attack was the best form of defence, Barry opened the second half aggressively and fine breaks by both Evans and Lee took Barry to the opposition line, where they were awarded a penalty which was converted by Scott.

The visitors' reaction was immediate, as they made their way into home territory and, had it not been for some poor handling and good defence, would have scored.

That pressure continued to build and Barry were forced to concede a raft of penalties. From a poor half clearance the visitors counter-attacked with the home defence out of position to score a well-worked try which, when converted, cut the deficit to six points.

Somehow Barry held out for the next 10 minutes as the visitors piled on more pressure and, as the game neared its final minutes, O'Sullivan was first to react to a loose ball to race 60 yards for a try wide out which Scott converted to take Barry two scores clear. What a relief for the home supporters!

There was obvious relief for the Barry team as they gained a new lease of life and went on the attack again. Camped in visitors' territory, Barry launched one final attack which saw the ball spread wide for Perry to cross and Scott to convert.

Barry will not have many harder games than this and it is a credit to their commitment and fitness, and also that of the coaching team, that they can grind out a win when required.

AJ

West End's late away win over Dinas Powys

APART from a goal in the first and last minute of the match by visitors West End, this game was, on the whole, dominated by Dinas Powys and they can consider themselves very unlucky not to have taken something from the game.

With the first attack of the game Luc Blackmore got a cross in from the right to Delano Tortortella who headed on for Rob Shannon to slot the ball home from close range for the opener for the visitors.

It took Dinas a while to get their passing game going after this setback but they gradually began to dominate possession and they had a good chance to level things when a deep cross from Nicky Bruce was met at the far post by Carlos Indjai, but his effort skewed across the six yard box and was cleared.

Ben Ah-Mun and Keiron James linked up well to give the latter a shot at goal but his effort was off target. They then attacked down the right, Atif Bashir finding Sam Johnson who spun and got a fine shot on target which Harding had to take at full stretch.

West End were having few attacking chances at this stage although they did have a free kick taken by Jon Eames but it was wide of James Curtin's left post, while at the other end Ah-Mun took a free kick from 22 yards which curled just wide.

Dinas forced two corners with around five minutes of the half remaining but couldn't capitalise on either of them and Ah-Mun had another half chance when he took a long range shot from 40 yards which wasn't far off target.

James Alloway then sustained a head injury but was okay to continue and the half ended with the visitors still hanging onto their one goal lead.

If anything Dinas were even more dominant in the second half and took the game to West End from the first whistle with Alloway just failing to get on the end of a cross from the left in the first five minutes.

Despite all the pressure they couldn't convert it into goals so manager Lee Saunders rang the changes with 25 minutes of the half gone, bringing on Charlie Baister and Luke Swaffield for Alloway and King Junior Mwedzo.

Swaffield was soon in the action, getting in a good cross from the right which Sam Johnson hooked goalwards but his effort was blocked before it could trouble Harding.

All the pressure was coming from Dinas now except for the odd breakaway where Curtin had to come off his line smartly to smother the danger. A Bruce free kick from 35 yards took everyone by surprise when he hit it hard and low on target which Harding spilled but his defence reacted quickest to clear the danger.

Another Bruce free kick bounced in the six yard box but evaded everyone and cleared the crossbar.

However, with just two minutes remaining, yet another Bruce free kick got through to Indjai to head home for a well-deserved equaliser.

Dinas must have switched off as straight from the restart West End found Tortortella who made room for a good shot to beat Curtin and undo all the good work from the Dinas side and there was hardly time to restart the game with the visitors going home with all three points.

Saturday, March 14, sees Dinas travel to Llwydcoed for a 2.30pm kick off.

Dinas: 1 James Curtin, 2 Atif Bashir, 3 Nicky Bruce, 4 James Bloxham (c), 5 Steve Provis, 6 Keiron James, 7 King Junior Mwedzo, 8 Ben Ah-Mun, 9 Sam Johnson, 10 James Alloway, 11 Carlos Indjai, 12 Charlie Baister, 14 Luke Swaffield.

PK